



JANUARY 1998

Volume 2 Number 1

Whole Number 12

NEWSLETTER

PREZ SEZ...

On the Road Again, off to Arizona to escape the New England winter. I have always found it interesting that when you travel across this country, you can notice price discrepancies. The price of gasoline, beer, cigarettes, even a BIG MAC can differ dramatically depending on where you are. New York, California, Texas, Florida, Big City, little town, prices do fluctuate depending upon location.

But not coins. A 1909-S VDB is going to be priced the same no matter where you are. A common date Morgan Silver Dollar will be priced the same anywhere you go.

What I really would like to know and if anyone has ever seen information about this please send it my way) is the REGIONAL BIAS of certain coins, in particular the commemorative coins of the early 20th century.

Specifically, did the Bridgeport, Connecticut, Lexington-Concord, Long Island, Maine, Pilgrim, Rhode Island, and Vermont issues stay in the Northeast?

Did the majority of the Bay Bridge, California, Oregon Trail, and San Diego's stay out west?

Was it difficult for West Coast collectors to obtain East Coast coins and vice-versa? Just curious. Something to think about while I'm soaking up the rays in the Southwest.

See you soon, Alan.

COIN OF THE MONTH

1. Participation is strictly VOLUNTARY.
2. Each month, a specific coin is chosen for the next month's coin.
3. Those that wish, bring in a specimen of the CotM, put it in the kitty, and get a ticket.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1 Feb - Fitchburg
- 12-15 Feb - Long Beach, CA
- 15 Feb - 3rd Sunday at Holiday Inn
- 22 Feb - Chelmsford
- 1 Mar - Fitchburg
- 8 Mar - Mansfield (CT) Club Show - Best little show in NE!
- 8 Mar - Auburn
- 15 Mar - 3rd Sunday at Holiday Inn
- 29 Mar - New Bedford
- 3-5 Apr - EAC Club Show, Boston

18 APR - NHNA 35TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION, CONCORD

JANUARY QUIZ

1. What U.S. coin is commonly known by its reverse?
2. Name 4 U.S. coins that depict armed soldiers.
3. John J. Pittman was instrumental in the issue of what coin?
4. The 20 Franc gold coin of France is nicknamed after whom?

DECEMBER ANSWERS

1. Manila 2. The Fugio Cent 3. Albany Commemorative (1936) 4. Their basic unit of currency was the POUND in various languages (GB=pound, Italy, Syria & Turkey=lira, Sudan=pound/piastre, Bulgaria=Leva)

4. One winning ticket is drawn during the meeting -- all coins go to the winner.

We can then discuss the coin's history, lore, war stories, etc.

The first CotM is the INDIAN HEAD CENT, held over from last month. Don't bring in any 1877's please.

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

-14 members present.

-Elections were conducted. See the new Officers list. Congratulations to all of our 1998 Officers.

-Talk about the NENA show in Merrimack. Task Lists and assignments discussed. 1998 NENA Medal design shown.

-Bart Bartanowicz showed a prototype of trifold club brochure

-Gary Galbo's auction on Saturday will be his biggest one yet.

-Gary will bring in coffee and donuts next meeting.

-The Charlotte Street School has requested a numismatist for one of their students. Anyone interested may call Pat Bernard at 594-4334. Don Pickering has provided a video.

-The report on the FUN show was big money, great show.

-The monthly quiz answers were discussed and the editor called for more questions.

-Show & Tell was a towel showing the new \$100 bill.

-Don Pickering presented the "History and Collecting of Checks", a very informative slide show.

1998 OFFICERS

President - Alan Brioullard

VP1 - Gary Galbo

VP2 - Carl Greenbaum

Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Fritsch

Director - Don Pickering

Librarian - Roger Levesque

Editor - Bob Fritsch

This Newsletter is published monthly by the Nashua (NH) Coin Club. Questions, comments, and articles may be sent to PO Box 3003, Nashua, NH 03061-3003. Phone queries can be made at 881-9211. The club meets on the second Monday of every month at 7PM in the Chandler Memorial Library, 257 Main Street, Nashua.

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NEXT MEETING 9 FEBRUARY AT THE LIBRARY

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BRINGING NEWS AND FEATURES OF YOUR CLUB



FEBRUARY 1998

Volume 2 Number 2

Whole Number 13

NEWSLETTER

PREZ SEZ...

Recently received the U.S. Mint's latest offering, the 2 set Kennedy featuring the Robert Kennedy commemorative and the John Kennedy matte proof. Now I know this subject is supposed to be about coins but permit me to share some thoughts.

No matter what one may personally feel about the Kennedy political philosophies, pro or con, I look at these coins and still feel a tremendous sense of loss. One wonders how the course of the country, even the world's history, would have been different even if the Kennedy brothers had not been struck down in their prime. I look at the coins, put them back in their case, and I feel sad for reasons that are hard to articulate. What might have been. "What might have been", the saddest words ever said.

When is the last time a coin inspired those thoughts in a collector?

Anyway -- NENA organizational meeting 10AM Saturday March 7th at Small Cents II, and the NCC meeting Monday March 9th at the regular time.

See you soon. Alan.

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FEBRUARY QUIZ

1. The "Booby Head" is a variety of what coin?
2. When were Victor David Brenner's initials restored to the Lincoln Cent?
3. What U.S. Dollar was worth less than a dollar?
4. This type of U.S. paper money was used by troops overseas following WWII up until the Seventies. What is it? (Bring in some samples if you have any.)

JANUARY ANSWERS

1. Buffalo Nickel. 2. The 3 WWII coins and the Korean commem, among others.
3. Bicentennial Quarter. 4. Napoleon.

NENA

There will be an organizational meeting for the club's participation in the NENA show on Saturday, 8 March at 10AM at Small Cents II. We will discuss committee assignments, objectives, tasks and the like. All club members are encouraged to attend, and NENA will provide the coffee and donuts. The March NENA Board meeting will be on 21 March at the Merrimack Hotel at 10AM. All NCC members are again encouraged to attend.

ROAD TRIP TO CT?

There was some interest expressed in a road trip to the Mansfield Club show in Willamantic, CT on 8 March. Is the interest still there? Your editor will be glad to drive (7-passenger Caravan). Travel time is about 2 hours, so we should leave Nashua at 8AM, and we can stop in Auburn at Tom Lacey's show on the way there or back. Call Gary's store at 881-9211 or email me at rfritsch@concentric.net to coordinate.

COIN OF THE MONTH

There was some confusion last meeting about this program. Let's try to make the rules clearer.

1. Each month we will focus on one coin, chosen at the previous meeting.
2. Bring in an interesting story or knowledge about the CotM.
3. For those who desire, bring in a specimen of the coin and place it in the kitty. You will receive a ticket for your participation. Winning ticket takes the kitty. You do not have to take part in this portion of the program.
4. We had a great discussion last month, so bring in your coins and stories for the

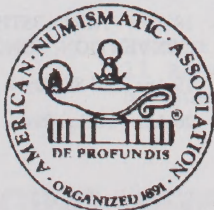
MERCURY DIME

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 8 Mar - Mansfield (CT) Club Show - Best little show in NE!
- 8 Mar - Auburn
- 14 Mar - Small Cents II Auction
- 15 Mar - 3rd Sunday at Holiday Inn
- 15 Mar - Gorham Club Show in Portland, ME
- 22 Mar - Chelmsford
- 29 Mar - New Bedford
- 3-5 Apr - EAC Club Show, Boston
- 18 APR - NHNA 35TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION, CONCORD
- 19 Apr - 3rd Sunday at Holiday Inn
- 26 Apr - Chelmsford

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- New membership cards were passed out to members who had paid their dues.
- Pierre and Dan Dionne were accepted into membership. Welcome!
- Gary Galbo's auction was good and the next one is 14 March.
- NENA planning meeting at 10AM Saturday (14 Feb) in Gary's shop.
- Alan Brouillard told of his Adventures in Tucson. Regional biases do exist.
- Why is NH the only New England state without a commemorative coin?
- Show and Tell included the new RPK commem, ANA participation medal, replicas of Confederate coins and notes from Gettysburg, Bowers & Merena early copper replicas, and an 1877 Indian Cent acquired at auction.
- Guest Christine Cable showed acquisitions 2 proof quarters and halves.
- Coin of the Month featured the Indian Head Cent.
- = Ken Young told of a magnificent collection that Jim Stif bought several years ago. He had to mortgage his house to get it!
- = On this series, the proofs are not as nice as many business strikes.
- = There was information about the coin, including the debate about the diamonds on the ribbon behind the head being the diagnostic of a full strike.
- = Alan Brouillard won the raffle of 8 coins.
- = Next month is Mercury Dimes.
- The quiz answers were given and discussed.
- Bob Fritsch reported on his mentoring of a youngster in numismatics at the Charlotte Ave School.
- The next meeting is 9 March.



ANA MEMBER CLUB

ANA's MONEY TALKS

Transcript No. 1216

June 2, 1997

ENCASED POSTAGE

By Mark Van Winkle

The old saying "necessity is the mother of invention" seems to be especially true during times of war. During the American Civil War, the public resorted to some unusual substitutes to replace coins that could no longer be found in circulation.

Today we'll hear about encased postage stamps, used instead of coins for a short time during the Civil War.

In the war's first years, the South won most of the major battles. Public confidence in the Union's ability to win the war was low. As a result, the general public started hoarding coins of all metals--gold, silver, and even copper. They did this so they would have some precious metal for their savings, just in case the South won the war and the Union fell to pieces. This created an instant shortage of circulating coins, and premiums were paid by merchants for small-denomination coins they could use for making change.

Some merchants were forced to issue their own money in the form of cardboard promises to pay if the holder of the note would bring the "store card" to their establishment. Others issued small copper tokens.

But one of the most ingenious coin substitutes was invented by a New York merchant named John Gault, who patented a process for encasing a postage stamp inside a brass holder and covering the front of the stamp with mica, a translucent mineral similar to glass. The process caught on very quickly, and Gault issued what became known as "encased postage" for no fewer than 31 merchants in the New England area. They served a dual purpose during their short life span... providing much-needed small change, while also leaving the back of the brass encasement blank so the merchant could advertise his store or product.

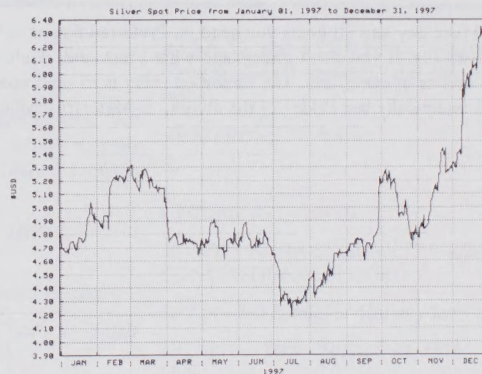
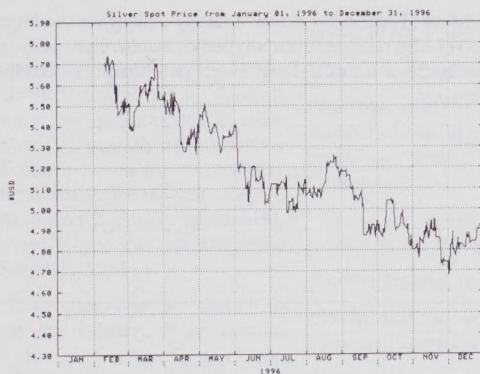
In little more than a year, Union army victories rallied public support, and silver and copper coins began to reappear. Encased postage was soon forgotten by all but the few collectors of the day.

This has been "Money Talks." Today's program was written by Mark Van Winkle and underwritten by COIN PRICES magazine, providing its readers with the latest values on U-S coins. "Money Talks" is a copyrighted production of the American Numismatic Association, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903, 719/632-2646, ana@money.org, <http://www.money.org>.

WHAT HAPPENED TO SILVER?

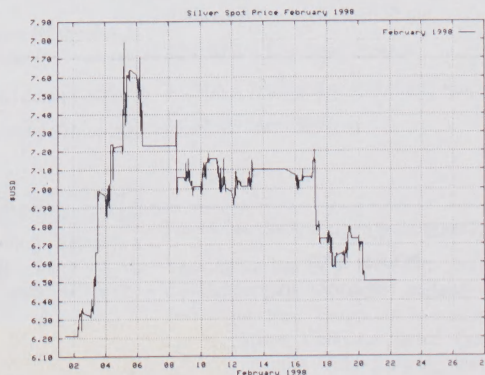
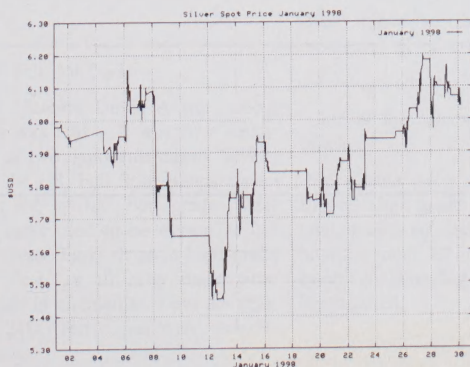
By Bob Fritsch

1998 so far has seen dramatic swings in the price of silver. As you can see by the accompanying graphs, its price had declined steadily since the beginning of 1996, hitting a low of \$4.20 in July of 1997. Oh had we but known what was going to happen!



After that July 97 low, the price of the metal rose steadily until it hit a high of around \$6.30 just before the close of the year. January 1998 saw wild swings in the market, starting at about \$6.00, finding a low of about \$5.45, then closing the month at about \$6.07.

Now look at February's chart. On 3 Feb, billionaire Warren Buffet announced that his company had purchased 130 million troy ounces of silver. BOOM! Goes the price, shooting up to over \$7.60 on 5 Feb. After that one jump, it has steadily gone down to a more reasonable \$6.20 on 26 Feb. WOW!



Graphs are © by Kitco Mining and Metals, Inc.

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BRINGING NEWS AND FEATURES OF YOUR CLUB



MARCH 1998

Volume 2 Number 3

Whole Number 14

NEWSLETTER

PREZ SEZ...

There will be a meeting on Saturday, April 11th at 10AM at Small Cents II with regard to the upcoming NENA show in September. We urgently ask all Nashua Coin Club members who can assist in any way to attend this organizational meeting. Your participation is greatly appreciated, so please see if you can set aside one hour on Saturday, April 11.

Next NCC meeting Monday April 13, 7:00PM at the Library. Busy agenda, remember to bring your Coin of the Month, a Buffalo Nickel. Time to make final decision on where we want to have our June dinner.

And last, but not least, the monthly newsletter needs articles. Everyone should be able to do a brief "How I Got Started in Coin Collecting" story. And we need suggestions to Name the Newsletter. That's it for now -- See you Saturday. Alan

COIN OF THE MONTH

MARCH: Mercury Dime. A story about the fasces was told -- it was on circulating coins of two opponents during WWII, Italy and the US. Full Split Bands are an indication of strike, not grade. FSB common dates used to be expensive but are now cheap. Early dates in high grade are very dear, as all early dates were heavily used in circulation. Keys are 16D, 21-, and 21D. Ten dimes were won by Bob Fritsch.

APRIL: BUFFALO NICKEL

MARCH HILITES

-10 members present.

-The Newsletter needs submissions. All members were urged to submit a short article on "How I Got Started in Coin Collecting."

-"Name the Newsletter" contest opened; judging by the Board.

-Good discussion on the monthly quiz.

-NENA meeting on 11 April at Small Cents on 11 April at 10AM.

-Gary Galbo gave a preview of his auction.

-Alan Brouillard showed the RF Kennedy set, he's not particularly impressed with the matte proof Half Dollar.

-Discussion on the definition of "matte" ensued.

-The attendance raffle of \$2.50 was won by Charlie Dube.

-New venue for the June Banquet was raised and tabled until April

-Show & Tell: High grade Indian Cents.

-Coin of the Month: Mercury Dime (see article).

-Ken Cable gave a short talk on Gold Eagles. High grade is pretty scarce. Even UNC grades can look crummy. \$10 was a large amount of pay for most of its existence. Grading of gold is pretty inconsistent.

-Bob Fritsch and John Statum told of their trip to the Mansfield (CT) Coin Club Show. Nice drive, wall-to-wall people, huge variety. Both spent a lot of money. Exhibits on fluorescence of paper money and a hand-struck medal. Prizes bought included a Brookline, NH 3-cent note, a \$10 Silver Certificate Series 1934,

a CSA \$5, and a CSA bogus back (\$100 obverse, \$1000 reverse), and the Show medal.

-Next meeting 13 April.

UPCOMING EVENTS

18 APR - NHNA 35TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION, CONCORD

19 Apr - 3rd Sunday at Holiday Inn

19 Apr - West Springfield (MA) CC Show

26 Apr - Champlain Valley CC Show, Burlington, VT

26 Apr - Chelmsford

26 Apr - Gateway CC Show, Lincoln, ME

3 May - Auburn

3 May - Fitchburg

3 May - Brunswick (ME) Show

8-10 May - Bay State, Boston

17 May - 3rd Sunday at Holiday Inn

31 May - New Bedford

FRITSCH ON QUARTER COMMITTEE

Your editor has been invited to serve on the Governor's Committee to select the design for New Hampshire's quarter in the 50 States Commemorative Quarter Program. It goes without saying that the invitation was accepted. The committee is still forming and will be meeting throughout the summer to choose the best design that is representative of the entire state.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN COIN COLLECTING

This is intended to be a comprehensive series where each member of the club tells the story of their start into the hobby. As you can see from these submissions, they need not be extensive. We are interested in sharing your story with the rest of the club. Submit your stories soon.

Alan Brouillard (Part 1)

Sometime in the Sixties, I was a paper-boy for the Nashua Telegraph. It must have been some Saturday in downtown Nashua as I went past some long-ago forgotten coin store and saw a Whitman Book #1 and #2 for Lincoln Cents. Bought them and started "plugging holes" as fast as I could from circulated coins without any regard or knowledge of condition. To call myself a collector at this stage would be an exaggeration. And then as I became a teenager, and other things became more important, my collection became dormant for about 25 years, until

[continued next month!]

Bob Fritsch

I never collected coins as a kid as I was into stamps. A few Whitman boards were started then spent as the need arose. But after joining the Navy and going overseas, availability of stamps was spotty at best. When I was in Japan, I would dump all my Japanese coins into a 3-pound coffee can after journeying out into the Land of the Rising Sun. I was also grabbing every silver coin that came my way. When I left Japan, I sorted through that coffee can and kept one of each different coin and one of each date of the 5 yen and 10 yen coins. That was when I actually became a collector. Should have done a complete date set to the limits of the can, but numismatics is a great series of "should haves." As to the rest of the coins, they were used for a memorable 3 day going-away party downtown.

issued so many different notes that people had a hard time keeping up with the designs.

Some artistic crooks made their ill-gotten gains by raising the value of genuine notes. A rogue artist could erase part of the design, and make hand-written adjustments that made the note look more valuable.

One person convicted of altering notes was Able Buel, who engraved the dies for many legitimate early American coins. He was convicted of raising the value of ten-penny notes to ten pounds. Since Buel was a young man, and this was his first offense, the court was lenient. The town constable clipped off the tip of Buel's ear, branded him with a "C" high enough on his forehead so he could cover the mark with his hair, and then threw him into jail for a while.

Things were no better in England. Bank of England notes were notoriously easy to counterfeit, and the Bank showed no interest in changing the designs of the notes to foil counterfeiters. So many men and women were routinely hanged or sent to Australia for counterfeiting that the famous British artist, George Cruikshank, engraved a satirical note criticizing the Bank and the judicial system. It depicted eleven corpses suspended from the Bank's scaffold--and it caused such a furor that Parliament changed the penal system, so there would be no more hangings for minor offenses, including counterfeiting.

This has been "Money Talks." Today's program was written by Bill Jones and underwritten by Ganz & Hollinger, a Full Service New York City national law firm. "Money Talks" is a copyrighted production of the American Numismatic Association, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903, 719/632-2646, ana@money.org, <http://www.money.org>.

MARCH QUIZ

1. What legislative act called for the introduction of clad coinage?
2. Who succeeded Harry Clements as the Director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing? (ANA members should get this one.)
3. What word is divided by the torch on the Roosevelt Dime?
4. What is the one-word nickname for the canoe design on the Canadian dollar?

FEB ANSWERS

1. Large Cent. 2. 1918. 3. Trade Dollar, by law. 4. Military Payment Certificates (MPC).

ANA'S MONEY TALKS

Transcript No. 1153

March 5, 1997

"TIS DEATH TO COUNTERFEIT"

by Bill Jones

Crime doesn't pay--but when the crime was counterfeiting, the criminal often had to pay the piper.

Counterfeiting was very risky in 18th century America. Many notes carried the warning, "Tis Death to Counterfeit," and it wasn't an idle threat. But counterfeiting was still lucrative, because the bogus notes were easy to pass. Many people were illiterate, and each state

Finer than Eliasberg !

By Carl Greenbaum

Historical information is adapted from data provided by Numismatic Guarantee Corporation, made available through the Tulving Company World Wide Web site (www.tulving.com).

Continuing my series on short, achievable collecting goals, this time I'll talk about the Indian Head Half Eagle. Recall my criteria:

- possible to collect a complete date/mint/variety set with no (or at most one) major stoppers
- individual coins "affordable" in XF or better condition, preferably AU
- fewer than 24 coins in the set (more or less).
- something out of the ordinary

The \$5 Indian series comes pretty close to satisfying these objectives. The incuse gold design is out-of-the-ordinary, there are 24 coins in a complete date/mint mark set and the majority of the coins are available in XF-AU in the \$225-\$250 range.

Indian Head half annually from 1908 one year, 1909, four produced them are denoted by a of the fasces on the production was

years; it then resumed for one last hurrah in

1929 at the Philadelphia Mint before the series ended for good in the face of the Great Depression. The 1929 half eagle is the big key in the series. Records list its mintage as 662,000, but the vast majority apparently were melted. Other scarce dates include 1909-O, 1911-D and 1908-S, all with mintages under 100,000. Small numbers of matte proofs were made every year from 1908 through 1915.



eagles were issued through 1916; in different mints (branch-mint issues mint mark to the left reverse). After 1916, suspended for 13

The only real obstacle to a complete set is the 1929. Apparently, fewer than 100 escaped the 1934 meltdown. These uncirculated examples began surfacing in March 1944. During ensuing decades, at least 60 specimens (mostly mints state with varying amounts of bag marks) were dispersed from original rolls; a fourth roll remained in private hands in 1978. Dispersal has been slow to avoid depressing the market.

Current values for MS-60 examples of the 1929 issue are in excess of \$5,000. Many collectors will drop down a grade or two to get a key date at an affordable price. Unfortunately, this strategy seldom works with the \$5 Indian. Actually, it goes in the wrong direction for a collector working on an AU set, since few 1929's are available below MS-60!

Still, collecting 23 of the 24 Indian Half Eagles is a worthy goal and the attractive design is better appreciated on the \$5 piece than on its smaller quarter eagle cousin. So, if your collecting budget can accommodate \$200-\$500 coins, you can assemble a good looking set of Indian Head half eagles. In fact, if you collect AU examples, many of your coins will be superior to those in the Eliasberg collection!

I checked the catalog from the 1982 sale of Eliasberg gold. Since Louis Eliasberg, Sr. was famous for collecting the finest known examples of each coin, I was surprised at what I found. The Philadelphia issues were certainly outstanding; eight examples in Proof-67. The Key dates were also top notch; 1909O in MS-65, 1908S in MS-65 and 1929 in MS-60! But the rest of the branch mints were VF-AU! So, if you have an XF 1916S Half Eagle for sale, you may rightly claim that it is finer than the Eliasberg specimen.

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APRIL 1998

Volume 2 Number 4

Whole Number 15

NEWSLETTER

APRIL HILITES

-SEVENTEEN members and two guests present.

-June banquet was debated, settled on T-Bones.

NENA show assignments: Advertising will be done on a part-time basis by several members and Carl Greenbaum and John Statkum will do Publicity. Don Pickering will do the postmark and ask the Post Office to set up at the show. -Description of the club wood given, motion passed to acquire 1000 of them.

-Show & Tell: stock certificates, Benson's Animal Farm pieces, parking tokens from Portsmouth NH and VA, and a Stack's Catalog.

-Gary Galbo's auction will be on 16 May, and Centennial is 14 April.

-Coin World Trivia Game will be the source for many quiz questions in the newsletter.

-Gary Galbo announced that he had new books in the shop. His Internet auction is so successful that he has trouble keeping items in stock.

-Discussion on investment and collectibles and the coin market. Factors to consider are enjoyment, affordability, market volatility, and quit if no fun is being had.

-Coin of the Month is separate article.

MAY PRESENTATION

Roger Levesque will give a presentation on Buffalo Nickels at the May meeting. He asks that everybody bring a good glass with them to properly examine his coins.

COIN OF THE MONTH

APRIL: Buffalo Nickel. Roger Levesque is the club's Buffalo specialist. The Buffalo nickel was first issued in 1913. A Type I from Jim Stif was passed around. Three-legged 37D can be faked. Roger will show his collection next month. Fourteen nickels were won by Dan Dionne. Grading points: Horn is a stride attribute. Huge jump in price after VG/F zone. Many new coins look like VF -- the strike is always weak. High end are very rare. One spectacular 38D MS-66 was passed around. Overdates (38 D/S and 18/17) and the 3 legger are very popular. 14/13 could be very common -- it took over 70 years to find it so it's not obvious. It's seen on all 3 mints so the master hub may have been overstruck. Buffalo nickel and Standing Liberty Quarter are hard in high grades as these coins were heavily circulated. Even dateless nickels are desired for jewelry. Littleton just bought 300,000 of them, all with dates. Type I wore too quickly and was retooled to Type II. Proofs came in matte proof in early years; 1936 has both matte and brilliant proofs. Will we ever see another Indian on a U.S. coin?

MAY: V Nickel

NAME THE NEWSLETTER

This contest is a simple one: Come up with a name for this newsletter. Try for a catchy title, one that conveys the spirit of the club, like the *Nashua Numismatist*. Give your entries to Alan, Gary, or Bob anytime during May, and we will announce the winner at the June Banquet. The winner gets a nice prize. In case of a tie, the earliest submission wins.

PREZ SEZ...

In May we celebrate Mother's Day, college graduations, and Memorial Day. Let's talk about Memorial Day, when we honor our dead, and especially those who made the supreme sacrifice for their country in battle.

We have many examples of coins that honor our war dead. The Battle of Antietam and the Battle of Gettysburg honor the Civil War. Lexington-Concord honors the American Revolution. In the modern commemorative era, there is the Korean War Memorial, World War II, Vietnam War Memorial, U.S. POWs, Women Veterans, and Civil War Battlefield coinage. A very impressive collection of coins. Sometimes what a coin stands for is what truly makes it valuable. Something to think about on a long Memorial Day weekend....

I will be travelling on business and will not be at the May NCC meeting. See you at our June dinner meeting. Until then -- Alan

APRIL QUIZ

1. The acronym HOMES calls to mind which U.S. Commemorative Half Dollar?
2. I have an Ides of March (EID MAR) coin in my hand. Who is pictured on the obverse?

3. Walking Liberty appears on what two coins?

4. The Flying Eagle of FE Cent fame also appeared on what other U.S. coin?

MARCH ANSWERS

1. Coinage Act of 1965. 2. Robert J. Leuver, recently retired Executive Director of ANA. 3. Pluribus. 4. Voyageur.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN COIN COLLECTING

Charlie Dube

I started collecting back in 1943 when my father gave me a few Canadian large cents. In Nashua, there was a store on Main Street near West Hollis Street which I passed on my way to school. It had a sign saying "Foreign Coins 5 cents each", so I would stop in and buy a few that looked interesting. Once in a while my father and I would ride up through Manchester and we would stop at Freeman's store on Elm Street which had old coins, medals, etc. From him I bought several "pieces of eight", Spanish-American silver dollars at \$1 each and a \$2-1/2 gold piece which he insisted was "proof" and for which I paid the princely sum of \$7.50 (later I found out that it was only Unc). I still have those coins.

Later, I wanted to find out if you could really get some money for old coins, and went to the Royal Coin Company in Boston, where I showed a man my box of coins. He paid me \$2.40 for an 1869 Indian Cent in AU, but he when he offered me only \$6.50 for the \$2-1/2 gold (which had cost me \$7.50), I declined, brought the box back, and continued to collect (Thank Goodness).

About 1950 there was a Mr. Coronis who had an uncirculated set of Indian Cents. When I learned that he belonged to the ANA, I decided to join in 1951, and am looking forward to obtaining a 50-year gold medal in 2001. In those days I bought from private people and auctions. Once I bought a 1950 proof set for \$2.50 on a bid board. In sorting through pocket change, I found almost all the Lincoln Cents, including a '09-S-VDB, but never found a '14-D, so finally bought one for \$30.

For 4-1/2 years in the late Fifties I was a toll collector on the Everett Turnpike, where I found a few semi-key coins. There is still hope today!

This is intended to be a comprehensive series where each member of the club tells the story of their start into the hobby. As you can see from these submissions they need not be extensive. We are interested in sharing your story with the rest of the club. Submit your stories soon.

Alan Brouillard (Part 2)

About 6 or 7 years ago, I was running some errands at the Nashua Mall during a coin week presentation. There were probably 8 to 10 dealers set up, and I casually looked at the display cases. I believe Ed and Sunny Dame were at the show. It was at that show that I met Gary Galbo, who was nice enough to spend 10-15 minutes with me patiently explaining things and telling me about the Nashua Coin Club. Many Thanks, Gary. And that is how I restarted a long dormant hobby.

Note: It has come to my attention that the Nashua Mall show no longer exists, which is a shame. It presented a nice forum for coin dealers to reach a large segment of the local population and start or restart an interest in the hobby. How can we reach these people? Any ideas?

Roger Levesque

I became interested in coins in 1962, about a year after having gotten a job in Sanders. With the help and encouragement of our good friend John Connery, and after showing him a beautiful buffalo nickel which I still have to this day, I was hooked on coins. And since I was making pretty good money, I began skoffing up coins and outbidding everybody at our club, I didn't care. Since one of my strong interests was oddities and errors, I was looking for anything that was wrong on a coin. I then slowly became interested in putting sets together, buying up proof sets, and so on.

MY NUMISMATIC CAREER IN A NUTSHELL by Ken Cable

How did I get started in coin collecting? Well, it was kind of an accident. When I was a small child, I already had a hobby, or so I thought. While I did not collect coins when I was age three to seven, I did actually collect (or rather, *accumulate*) something. What I collected were the labels that were pasted onto the corners of window panes when they were manufactured. I observed that these window labels came in different shapes and colors, so I was already in tune to the concept of "collecting by variety". But there came a point where I drove my parents crazy with my quest for these small and useless scraps of paper. I'd scream and cry if they refused to peel a label off a neighbor's window for me to add to my "collection". I was in my glory whenever we would go into a hardware store, where there were new window sashes with labels there for the taking.

Eventually, Mom and Dad couldn't take it any longer. At the ripe old age of 7, my mother took me into a coin shop not far from where we lived. Up to this time I had never paid attention to the dates on coins, what little I had the privilege of handling. Times were tough, and we learned to appreciate the value of coins as money, nothing else. But in this shop on this day, I saw something that aroused my curiosity. It was not the ancient Roman coins or obsolete denominations that I'd never seen before, but a plain old Lincoln cent in a 2 x 2 holder that was on sale for about \$25. I asked my Mom why that one penny was so expensive. She didn't

continued on next page

know, but the dealer behind the counter explained to us that this date, a 1909-S (no VDB) was valuable because of its rarity, and because many people want one to fill a hole in their album. Well, guess what, and I remember this clearly even after all these years - I asked Mom to buy that penny for me! Of course, she refused, and I was upset like with the labels. But she did buy me two Whitman Lincoln cent albums (1909-40 and 1941-Date) that day, and I was forever crowned a numismatist. That experience set the tone, and it went from there.

Every day I looked through my change from school, the corner drug store, or the ice cream man, and soon filled many of the placeholders in my albums. Most of the "Wheat" dates were quite common and easily obtainable in change, even as far back as "day one" which was 1909. I didn't yet collect anything except pennies, but soon I had the opportunity to search through thousands of pennies at friends' homes, the local community center, and in rolls that Mom would bring home from the bank. My best find that first year was a 1922-D I pulled out of Mom's overcoat (with a mintage of only 7,160,000 - quite low for this denomination).

It wasn't long before I'd become interested in all of the coin denominations and types that were then in circulation. This was the early 1960s, when all dimes, quarters and halves were 90% silver and types such as the Buffalo nickel, Mercury dime and Walking Liberty half dollar were everyday circulating coinage (even though last issued in the 1940s). My parents restricted me to still collect only pennies in the albums, as otherwise I'd be tying up too much "cash money". Nevertheless, I'd soon keep a sharp eye for a 1916-D dime, and - oh yes - one Saturday at my school's matinee, I spent the whole afternoon searching through the coins at the ticket booth for 1939-D and 1950-D nickels! Didn't find any, and missed a good movie.

As the years wore on, my collecting habits became more diversified. By the time I was 12, I frequented coin shops to purchase the Lincolns I was unable to obtain in change. Also, my uncle gave me some Indian Head cents he'd saved, and this broadened my horizon to the older, obsolete type coins. My grandparents also had some "V" nickels and foreign coins from way back. For a while I was interested in foreign coins, especially having travelled to various European countries when I was in my teens. Soon I began to hoard silver coins. Wheat cents, and rolls of common coins. As with the window labels, I had become an addictive accumulator of coins.

By the time I graduated college, my Lincoln set was nearly complete, lacking only the S-VDB and the 1922 Plain, and I'd assembled partial sets of all U.S. copper, nickel and silver coin types that began in the present century. The Jefferson, Roosevelt, Washington, Franklin and Kennedy sets were complete to date, and I had many keys in the earlier series. In 1979-80 I got caught up in the mania of the rare coin market, and sold or broke up many of the sets. I sacrificed quantity for quality, but overpaid for many coins that were improperly graded. Nevertheless, I now had some impressive proof type coins of the Seated Liberty and Barber denominations.

Fast forward to 1993. Over the prior ten years I did little coin buying, as there were other more pressing matters in my life. But at this time I'd become intensely interested in pre-Civil War U.S. coins as an adjunct to personal historical studies of the second quarter of the 19th century. I wanted my coin collection to be represented by items that were in context with this time period. So I began liquidating my earlier collection and acquiring low-grade Classic Head gold pieces, large cents, half cents and Capped Bust coins. Before long I became more sophisticated and started going for the better

items, and proceeded to sell off nearly all of my original collection to obtain some uncirculated Bust and very early Seated material, mint state copper, and rare-date gold pieces. As of this writing, my focus is almost exclusively on U.S. coins minted between 1825 and 1850, and I own an 1832 quarter eagle in XF-40, an 1836 proof-only half cent and an 1838 \$10 in XF-45, all certified. But the total number of coins in my collection: a mere 32! A far cry from the way I collected over the previous years.

Here's another anecdote, for a closer. My mother frequently "cleans house" and discovers something of mine which she had saved. Sometimes it's something I haven't seen in decades, or don't even remember. Why, just last month Mom gave me a set of old Sterling silverware that I hadn't seen in at least 30 years. Anyway, on the day I was born, a dear friend of my mother gave her a 1923 Peace dollar, and said (as recollected to me), "This is for baby Kenny." Could that have been the spark that ignited the flame? As a toddler she let me play with the oversize coin, which I probably thought was some sort of toy. Down the years I've asked Mom if that was what possessed her to take me into a coin shop when I was seven. I believe it was around this time that Mom presented me with this silver dollar, which I kept in my pocket, or later, in a wallet as a good luck charm. Thirty-seven years later, while this coin has unfortunately been lost or misplaced, I feel that I'm bearing the fruits of "good luck" by having managed to find these few truly rare 1830s coins at the right prices. Who knows, maybe that "lucky dollar" will turn up in one of Mom's many boxes of memorabilia she presents me with from time to time, to this day.

1998 OFFICERS

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VP1 - Gary Galbo

VP2 - Carl Greenbaum

Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Fritsch

Director - Don Pickering

Librarian - Roger Levesque

Editor - Bob Fritsch

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Phone queries can be made at 881-9211. The club meets on the second Monday of every month at 7PM in the Chandler Memorial Library, 257 Main Street, Nashua.

NEXT MEETING 11 MAY AT THE LIBRARY

N.C.C.
PO Box 3003
Nashua, NH 03061-3003

Robert F. Fritsch 98
11 Rene Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

SHARE YOUR HOBBY -- BRING A FRIEND



MAY 1998

Volume 2 Number 5

Whole Number 16

NEWSLETTER

PREZ SEZ...

Recently returned from Las Vegas where I did manage to locate and visit 1 coin store. I just do not understand the western part of the country. Is the East Coast, and particularly the Northeast, the hotbed of coin collecting? I am curious how those of you who have contacts around the country would answer that. From now on, when I leave New England, I might as well leave the hobby home while I travel. Anyway, look forward to seeing all of you at our annual June dinner meeting. As usual, I expect a good time will be had by all. In addition, PLEASE be aware that NENA 98 is fast approaching, and we need all the volunteer help possible. That's all for now.... see you at the dinner, bring your appetites.. and a guest, of course..... Alan

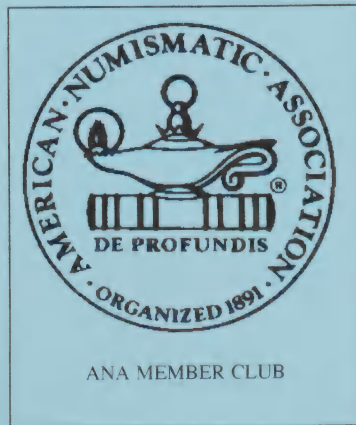
The Coin of the Month was the "V" Nickel. There were two types with Type I missing "Cents" in the denomination. The story of the deaf-mute who passed gold plated versions of this coin (the "Racketeer Nickel") was told. The 1913 nickel is not a part of this series as it was made illegally. The most valuable US coins are spurious issues! B. Max Mehl made a reputation off the 1913 coin. Early "V" Nickels are tough to find, especially 1894-95, but easy enough 1898 - 1912. Low grades are prevalent. Auctions often have complete sets. The determined collector can put together a mostly UNC set at \$50-100 per coin. Charles Barber the designer of this uninspired coin. Roger Levesque won six coins in the raffle. July's coin: Barber Dime.

THANKS JIMMY!

Jim Guinesso, our benefactor, has been sharing show monies from his Third Sunday shows for several years now, and our Treasury is healthy because of it. This past month was no exception, when he gave us the lion's share of the profits, \$250! All members are urged to support him at all his shows. Many thanks Jim!

JUNE BANQUET

Our banquet will be at T-Bones on Lowell Road in Hudson, just down the street from our previous venue. Cocktails at 6:30, Dinner at 7. This is an open menu and all members and guests are asked to exercise restraint in ordering. We want to spend no more than \$15 total per person. We appreciate your cooperation.



ANA MEMBER CLUB

MAY HILITES

12 members and one guest present.

Almost half of the NENA tables sold -- NENA Board meeting on 30 May.

Only business card advertising for the convention booklet so far.

Club's show at Third Sunday 17 May -- 3 volunteers for setup.

Banquet 8 June -- Limit orders to \$15.00 per person.

Library meeting space renewed for the next year.

Question: How many years were the Special Mint Sets issued?

Answer: FOUR, 4-10 SMS's were issued in 1964!

Roger Levesque Presentation: "Grab Bags" to lucky winners. Oddities collected over the years. Medals, elongates, coins, a scale for 1982 cents, painted coins, gold plated coins, RPMs (Repunched Mintmarks), corrugated coins, die breaks, and double dies. Examples used to explain minting process.

Show & Tell: new Lithuanian banknotes, coin roll finds, 1973 ANA Boston medal set, and *The New Hub Coin Book* from 1912.

Tim Sampson will bring the donuts in July.

Ken Young contributed *Standard Catalog of Paper Money* to Library.

Update of the NH Quarter was given.

HOW I GOT STARTED IN COIN COLLECTING

This is intended to be a comprehensive series where each member in the club tells the story of their start into the hobby. As you can see from these submissions, they need not be extensive. We are interested in sharing your story with the rest of the club. Submit your articles soon. These two bring the total to seven.

Carl Greenbaum

As I think about how I first became interested in coin collecting, I'm reminded of insanity - you remember, insanity is hereditary - you get it from your children! Well, I got the coin collecting bug from my son Scott. When he was a young teenager he began filling the holes in a Whitman penny album. On several occasions I took him to the local coin shop to buy wheaties for his album. That was John Hough's shop in Hudson.

As I looked over the Buffalo Nickels, Mercury Dimes and Walking Liberty Halves on display, the sense of nostalgia was remarkable. I barely remembered seeing some of these coins in circulation as a kid in the 50's but it was a powerful sense of déjà vu.

Scott had a Red Book which I began to read, and soon enough I decided that a set of Mercury Dimes would be fun to collect. I remember my wife's reaction. Sandy looked at me skeptically and said, "I can understand Scott spending a dollar for a penny - but you want to spend how much on a dime?"

Still, a hobby is a hobby and all things considered one could do worse than collect money. Then as now, my collecting interests were all over the place. In addition to the Merces, I began a 20th Century Type set which introduced me to vaguely remembered coins like Indian Head Pennies and design differences like Standing Liberty Quarters with and without an exposed breast. Scott thought that was pretty cool (This was the stage of adolescence when his room was covered with Farah Fawcett posters but no type 1s!).

As time went on I, like many collectors

was drawn to large coins. I assembled a set of Ikes, then Peace Dollars, then Morgans (all but a few). For completeness, certainly not for size or appeal, I assembled a set of Susan B.s. My collection of Dansco and Harco albums grew but the nostalgia faded.

As I sought more interesting collecting realms I found my way to Ancients and I began collecting coins of Judea, particularly coins minted during the two revolts of the Jews against the Romans. It was fascinating and very educational but fairly slow paced because coins of interest didn't come along all that often once I assembled a few of the easy prutahs and leptons. My favorite Judean coins are the Zuzim from the second revolt (134-135 c.e.). These nickel size silver coins were overstruck on Roman coins, some of which were the Judea Capta types the Romans minted between 70-90 c.e. to celebrate their defeat of the Jews during the first revolt. How fitting.

Another good thing that happened during my ancient collecting was NCC. I was monitoring the NUMISM-L coin list and noticed a posting from someone with an email address at Sanders. I sent a reply asking if he was in the Nashua area and if there were any clubs in the region. That's how I met Bob Fritsch and found NCC.

That pretty much brings me up to date. I've already written about my Capped Bust Half Dime and Indian Head Quarter Eagle collecting. My next quest is a "Red Book" set of Capped Bust Half Dollars, so if you see a nice reeded edge 1836, give me a call

"Bart" Bartaowicz

I was born in 1941. I remember being attracted to Indian Cents as soon as I first saw them. My father always seemed to have a fondness for them and would make a big deal of finding one in his pocket change. He wasn't a collector; he just liked the coin. Part of it may have been that as a police officer he drove a huge Indian motorcycle (an American classic made in Springfield, MA) in the 30s and 40s. Perhaps that was his connection. Either way, I usually ended up with the coins. I would look them over and then put them in a glass mason jar. In 1952 we moved to Florida where my father became the police chief of a small town near Fort Lauderdale.

I quickly found that in Florida there weren't any Indian Cents in change. As a result I sort of lost interest in coins. The community we lived in had numerous retirees who lived in "duplexes" which were connected two room apartments on one level. I became friendly with an elderly gentleman who collected both stamps and coins. He would occasionally bring out his collection of Buffalo Nickels and Indian Cents and discuss the collection. I don't recall that he had any reference materials but he knew history, mintage and condition. He kept the coins in small 2X2 or perhaps 3X3 manila envelopes. A wooden cigar box held each set. Both sets were complete with the exception of the overdates. He once mentioned that overdates were mistakes and that collectors should not waste their time on them!

I had known the gentleman for some two or three years. My father came in one day and asked if I had talked to the gentleman or seen him about the past week. I said no. I knew that my father would be checking the duplex and might well find the man deceased. This was not uncommon in this small town. In fact many people didn't have phones and there just wasn't a way of checking up on people. The mail was also dropped in through door slots so the mailman would not know if something were amiss. Well my

father checked and sure enough the individual had passed away in the house. All the goods were packed up and my father put them in storage until the next of kin was located. It was a month or two later that a brother came in to pick up the goods. He chatted with my father. My father mentioned that I had kept the man company. The brother was aware of this, as his brother had mentioned me in his letters. *Can you guess what happened?*

Now talk about the improbable. I was given the entire Indian Cent collection—which included the 1877, which I knew, was the key date rarity! The brother chose to keep the Buffalo Nickel collection for himself. Needless to say I was ecstatic. My father was more interested in what I could sell the set for. My younger brother felt I should sell the collection and split the money with him! I kept the set and would on occasion take each coin out and examine it. Overall the set would have graded a weak fine. I held on to the set until 1960 when I went into the Air Force. I wanted a car and did not have the money to buy much. An enlisted man made about \$80. a month. Even with a room in the barracks and all the food I cared to eat (for free!) in the mess hall, this did not stretch far. Wanting a car I decided to sell my Indian Cent collection. I was sure that when better times arrived I would **reconstitute the set** with even a better collection! I found a dealer in town, which was Savannah, Georgia. I received the princely sum of \$170. Believe it or not this got me into a used car—but not much of car. On the other hand I had wheels.

To this day I do not know how I did. Perhaps I let the set go too cheaply or maybe I did okay. (In 1960 \$75. A week was considered good money) I was someone who collected pocket change and then “inherited” a set. I had never costed out assembling a set. I only know that I loved Indian Cents—and I still do. I guess I’ve been chasing that set ever since. By the way, I still have the cigar box!

How many folks do you know who had someone give them a complete Indian Cent set? You do now....

NH QUARTER OIN THE WEB

WWW.STATE.NH.US

NEWSLETTER NAME CONTEST

Here are the names submitted so far.

- Friends of Numismatists
- The Coiner
- Your Money's Worth
- Heads & Tails
- The Flip Side
- Your Two Cents Worth
- Numismatically Yours
- Numismatic Log
- Coins R' Us
- The Obverse & Reverse
- The Coin Courier
- Coin Post
- Coin Renderings

Got a better name? Bring yours to the banquet so we can vote.

MAY QUIZ

1. What is the name of the ship on the Canadian 10-cent coin?
2. What was the issue price of a 1968 Mint Uncirculated Set?
3. What man appearing on modern US paper money had his memoirs published by Mark Twain?
4. What was the name of the bison who was the model for the 1901 \$10 US Note?

APRIL ANSWERS

1. Cleveland (HOMES is the initials of all the Great Lakes). 2. Marcus Junius Brutus (Et tu, Brute). 3. WL Half and American Silver Eagle. 4. Gobrecht Dollar (1836-1839).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 4-7 Jun - Long Beach
- 7 Jun - Maine NA, Portland
- 7 Jun - Fitchburg
- 12-13 Jun - Tom Lacey's Show, Mansfield, MA
- 21 Jun - THIRD SUNDAY @ HOLIDAY INN
- 28 Jun - Chelmsford

19 Jul - THIRD SUNDAY @ HOLIDAY INN

4-9 Aug - ANA Portland, OR

18-19 Sep - NENA Merrimack

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NEXT MEETING 8 JUNE AT T-BONES

N.C.C.
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Nashua, NH 03061-3003

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11 Rene Drive
Nashua, NH 03062

THE KEY TO KNOWLEDGE



JUNE 1998
Volume 2 Number 6
Whole Number 17

NEWSLETTER

PREZ SEZ...

The newsletter has had some excellent articles submitted in the last few issues. I really enjoy reading the "How I Got Started In Coin Collecting" series that the members have been submitting. The stories are interesting on a personal as well as numismatic level. Really good stuff- keep them coming. Hope everyone enjoyed the June banquet meeting at T-Bones. We will discuss it at the next meeting to get your feedback, be it good or bad, so we can make future plans. Next meeting will be Monday, July 13, 1998. I know it's summertime and the living is easy, but we hope to see many of you at the July Meeting. Until next time...Alan

COIN OF THE MONTH:

Barber Dime

- Bring a story and a coin
- Put your coin in the kitty, get a ticket
- Winning ticket gets the kitty.

Included in this issue is a submission form for the NH Quarter Design. Fill one or several out and send them in. More forms will be available at the meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

12 Jul - Brunswick, ME
12 Jul - Auburn, MA
19 Jul - THIRD SUNDAY @
HOLIDAY INN
26 Jul - Chelmsford
2 Aug - Fitchburg
4-9 Aug - ANA Portland, OR
9 Aug - Auburn
9 Aug - Searsport, ME
16 Aug - THIRD SUNDAY
@ HOLIDAY INN
23 Aug - Chelmsford
30 Aug - New Bedford, MA
18-19 Sep - NENA
Merrimack

A NEW LOOK

My printer died. Now in itself that is no biggie as new printers are easy to get. However, this being the age of the computer, once you buy something new, something else you have is going to be too old to use. In my case, it was the publishing software that has been used for the past issues of this newsletter. So now I have a new printer and new publishing software, and am still learning how to use both. And that is one of the reasons that this issue is late arriving at your door. --ed.

JUNE QUIZ

1. The majority of U.S. Commemorative Coins are what denomination?
2. What country uses three towers on the reverse of all its coinage?
3. In which direction is the eagle on the SL Quarter flying?
4. What Kentucky man, born in 1809, appears on the 1923 \$5 Silver Certificate?

MAY ANSWERS

1. "Bluenose" 2. \$2.50 3. U.S. Grant 4. Pablo (not Black Diamond who graced the Buffalo Nickel).

JUNE ANSWERS

1. Half Dollar. 2. San Marino. 3. To the Right. 4. Abraham Lincoln.

JUNE HILITES

- Dinner at T-Bones
- 11 members and 9 guests
- Good time had by all
- Greetings by President Brouillard
- Next meeting 13 July

VISIT THE NEW HAMPSHIRE QUARTER WEB SITE AT

[Http://www.state.nh.us](http://www.state.nh.us)

A NUMISMATIC JOURNEY OF SINGAPORE

Part 1: Coinage

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[I recently completed a globe-circling journey in support of the US Navy, which took me to Singapore, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain. This article is the first in a series reporting numismatic finds and general observations that I have made.]

GETTING THERE: I boarded United Airlines in Boston early in the morning of 31 December 1995, bound west. Changed planes in LA, and celebrated New Year's someplace over the Pacific. While waiting for another plane change in Tokyo's Narita Airport, I had a bowl of osoba, soup with Chinese noodles. This was paid for with 50 and 100 Yen coins I had removed from world junk boxes over the years. The soup was expensive, Y600, which depleted my meager holdings of Japanese money. Of note, some of the Y50 coins I used (KM 75, KM76) were unknown to the cashier, even though they were in common circulation when I was stationed in Japan in the late 60's. I guess the new generation of Japanese are just as numismatically disadvantaged as ours (how's that for a politically correct buzzword?).

The onward journey to Singapore was uneventful, the best kind of plane ride there is, except there wasn't an empty seat on the aircraft. Arrived at Singapore's Changai Airport just before midnight on 1 January 1996, and changed some money while waiting for my bags to appear at baggage claim. This late night service was well appreciated and indicative of how Singaporeans conduct business. A friendly taxi-caller explained how to instruct the cab driver where I wanted to go, and I arrived at the Holiday Inn Park View somewhere around 1AM.

The next morning saw me out bright and early (don't ask me how), and I changed more money. The exchange rate is around 1.39 S\$ to the US\$. Traveller's checks get a slightly lower

exchange than greenbacks, which is directly opposite my experiences in Europe.

The Republic of Singapore is a fascinating country located on an island of 247 square miles at the tip of the Malay peninsula, just over 1 degree north of the equator. It is characterized by a booming economy, friendly people, clean streets, and a very low crime rate. It boasts the third largest financial market in the world, surpassed only by New York and London. The people are a mix of Asiatic cultures, with ethnic Chinese the largest group, plus Malays, Indonesians, Indians, and indigenous people. The total population is about 2.8 million people.

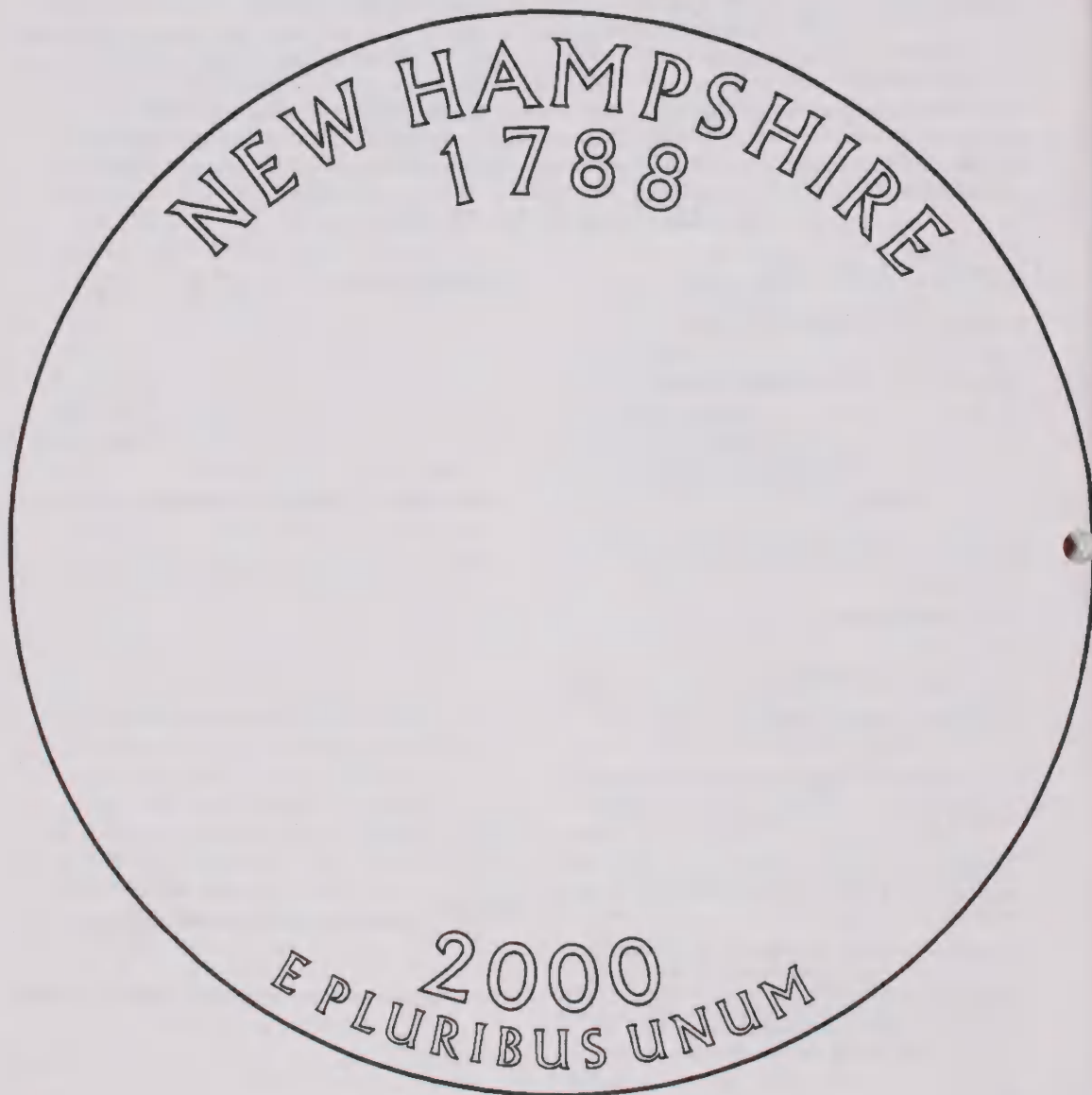
If you want to characterize Singapore in one word, that word must be "shopping." The place is rife with huge shopping complexes. My hotel was in the Orchard Road area, which is a two-mile long shopping area. A short distance away was a center with seven stories of consumer electronics. Even in the outer reaches of the island, shopping complexes abounded. Prices were generally advisory in nature, and haggling was expected. For instance, I got a nice Merlion (Singapore's logo, sorta like a mermaid but with a lion's head) statuette for S\$6 when the sticker price was S\$8. Many places are becoming fixed price, and that fact is prominently displayed throughout the store. All this adds up to a vibrant and exciting economy.

In contrast, Singapore money is rather boring. The obverse carries the coat of arms of the country, while the reverse shows local flora with the denomination. 1985 was the earliest year found in circulation, so I guess the original coins of the Republic (1967-1985) were withdrawn. There was a modification in design in 1992: from 1985-1991 the obverse shield was taller than the supporting lions, while 1992-date the lions are taller than the shield. SCWC identifies the change as a difference in the ribbons below the shield. Oddly, I found no 1992 dated coins during my visit. All denominations circulate, and I got change down to 1 cent in the out-of-the-way places. Despite their common appearance, there was little



You may use words, drawings, or pictures to convey your concept/idea. Put your name and address on the back, along with a brief description of your idea. You may submit as many ideas as you wish in a single envelope, but use a separate page for each item.

Deadline is September 15, 1998



Mail entries to: The Governor's Commemorative Coin Committee
% Department of Cultural Affairs
20 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301

confusion among denominaions. Here are their descriptions:

Common obverse - Coat of Arms consisting of a shield bearing five stars spaced around a central dot, above a crescent. Two lions flank the shield, and stand on a ribbon stating "MAJULAH SINGAPURA". Proportions of Coat of Arms were changed in 1992 as reported above. The date is immediately below. Around the rim is the name of the Republic in four languages, Tamil, Chinese, English, Malay (clockwise from top).

1 cent - 16mm, 1.3 grams. Bronze (86-90) or Copper plated Zinc (91-date). Common obv. Rev shows large "1" and "ONE CENT" with the Vanda Miss Joaquim plant. KM49 (86-90) KM49b (91), KM98 (92-date). Plain edge.

5 cents - 16.8mm, 1.6 grams. Aluminum-Bronze. Common obv. Rev shows "5", "FIVE CENTS", and Fruit Salad plant. KM50 (85-91), KM99 (92-date). Reeded edge.

10 cents - 18.5mm, 2.7 grams. Copper-Nickel. Common obv with ring of dashes around Coat-of-Arms. Rev shows "10", "TEN CENTS" and Star Jasmine plant. KM51 (85-91), KM100 (92-date). Reeded edge.

20 cents - 21.4mm, 4.6 grams. Copper-Nickel. Common obv. Rev shows two denominations with Powder-puff plant. KM52 (85-91), KM101 (92-date). Reeded edge. This was by far the most common minor coin received in change.

50 cents - 24.6mm, 7.3 grams. Copper-Nickel. Common obv. Rev features the Yellow Allamanda plant with denominations. KM53.1 (reeded edge, 85-88), KM53.2 (lettered edge, 89-91), KM102 (lettered edge, 92-date). Edge states "REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE" and a stylized lion's head.

1 dollar - 22.6mm, 6.3 grams. Aluminum-Bronze. Common obv. Rev shows Periwinkle plant with "\$1", "ONE DOLLAR" inside an eight-sided insert. KM54b (87-91), KM103 (92-date). Lettered (same as 50 cents) and reeded edge, much like the British round pound. The letters cut through the reeding.

One of the things I like to do in foreign places is take a census of all coins that cross my palm. I normally go to the bank and get loads of change, but for various reasons it did not happen here. This survey makes no attempt to normalize the readings and is basically raw data. So here for your edification and enjoyment is

BOB'S TOTALLY UNSCIENTIFIC COIN CENSUS OF SINGAPORE

	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95
1c	1							8			
5c				1					3		
10c		4	3		6		6				
20c	1	4	2	1	2		3		5		
50c	1			1	6	1	1			2	
\$1		2	2	6	6				6	10	

NEXT: Folding money, getting around, phone calls, and a visit to the Mint.

NEWSLETTER NAME CONTEST

We still need a name for this august publication. Here are the names submitted so far.

- Friends of Numismatists
- The Coiner
- Your Money's Worth
- Heads & Tails
- The Flip Side
- Your Two Cents Worth
- Numismatically Yours
- Numismatic Log
- Coins R' Us
- The Obverse & Reverse
- The Coin Courier
- Coin Post
- Coin Renderings

Got a better name? Bring yours to the meeting so we can vote.

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NEXT MEETING 13 JULY AT THE LIBRARY

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Nashua, NH 03062

SHARE YOUR HOBBY -- BRING A FRIEND



JULY 1998

Volume 2 Number 7

Whole Number 18

Nashua Numismatist

JULY HIGHLIGHTS

--11 members and three guests present.

--Guests: frequent visitor Carol Balcom, Bob Fritsch's protégé Tim Walant, and his mother Jacinta Walant.

--Tim is 9 years old, collects wheat cents and attends Charlotte Avenue school

--June banquet Feedback: environment and service left a lot to be desired. Everybody stated the preference to go somewhere else next year.

--NENA Update: still have unsold tables. There will be a big push for the advertising booklet 24-25 July. The nickel drop will distribute five rolls with a few countermarked with the NENA punch.

--Bob Fritsch announced that he will not seek reelection as NENA President and thanked all for the support to him and NENA through the years.

--Reminiscences of early club days -- up to eighty members attended and lots of coins were seen

--Deadline for July newsletter will be 24 July, the August issue deadline is the August meeting.

--The newsletter's new name is the *NASHUA NUMISMATIST*.

--NH Quarter program explained, members urged to submit designs.

--Show and Tell: specimen notes, in denominations of \$6, \$7, \$8, and \$9.

--Description of auction lots which were then sold.

--Next meeting 10 August.

Coin of the Month...

was the Barber Dime. This was a boring period of U.S. coinage.

This is a very collectible series with the 1895O as key. The 1894S (R8) is not considered part of the series, and most of them seen are counterfeit. Most Barber Dimes are heavily circulated.

They were made from 1892-1916. F-VF are \$20 and up; G is \$5 across the set. Charles Barber, Chief Engraver at the Mint, designed the coin and lent his name to the coin (as well as the Barber Quarter and Half).

Aug COM: Silver Washington Quarter

UPCOMING EVENTS

2 Aug - Fitchburg

4-9 Aug - ANA Portland, OR

9 Aug - Auburn

9 Aug - Searsport, ME

16 Aug - THIRD SUNDAY @ HOLIDAY INN

23 Aug - Chelmsford

30 Aug - New Bedford, MA

6 Sep - Fitchburg

13 Sep - Auburn

13 Sep - Maine State, Portland, ME

18-19 Sep - NENA

MERRIMACK

19 Sep - SMALL CENTS II

AUCTION

20 Sep - THIRD SUNDAY @ HOLIDAY INN

27 Sep - Brunswick, ME

27 Sep - Chelmsford

PREZ SEZ....

We all collect coins for many different reasons. The love of the chase. To learn about a period of history. The pure beauty of a certain series. The pride of completing a special set. All of these are good reasons to collect. With anything that people collect, there is another implied reason, that the collection will hopefully appreciate in value over time.

After all, if you collected for 10 years and watched it depreciate 30 or 40 percent - that would most likely severely crimp your enthusiasm for your hobby.

In the last 10 years we have seen markets go crazy in such things as baseball cards, antiques, beanie babies, etc. Could the next 10 years bring about a renaissance in coin collecting. We could see the elimination of the cent, a new circulating dollar coin, and we will see the 50 state commemorative 25 cent series. Could a sleeping giant awaken? Could our hobby be the next hot thing?

You know what is interesting? Half of us would love to see it happen, and the other half would hate to see it happen. And you wondered why a coin has 2 sides.....

Until next time.... Alan

HOW I GOT STARTED IN COLLECTING

John Statkum

Back in the 1940s there was a little ice stand on the corner of West Hollis and Ash Street. It was my job to sell ice; people would drive up and ask for a 25- or 50-pound piece of ice.

One day an older man (looked like he was in his sixties) drove up and bought a piece of ice and then he asked me if I went through a lot of change. Of course I said Yes so he asked me if I would save certain coins for him. I learned all about mint marks and where to look for them.

Two or three days later he stopped again and bought some ice and asked if I had any coins for him. I said that I had a few and showed him what I had. He then gave face for the coins and said the next time he stopped he would bring me a folder for pennies. Sure enough, a few days later he gave me my Whitman folder for pennies and I was on my way.

After a month or so word got around that I was collecting pennies and my friends would bring me pennies to look at. One day a girl from across the street brought me two pennies. One was an Australian Penny dated 1912, and the other was a U.S. 1847 Large Cent. Boy, when I saw that I was thrilled!

I offered her a dollar for the large cent and a dime for the Australian and she said OK. I thought: Well, have I got something to show Harry when he next stops for ice. The very next day Harry comes up driving up for ice. I said, "Hey Harry, look what I have here!" (thinking it a real treasure). Harry looked at the coin and said, "I buy

those for a quarter apiece. Boy! talk about a letdown -- but I learned an important lesson. Later I started on nickels, dimes, quarters, and halves. Within a couple of years I had all the Lincolns except for 1909S-VDB and 1914D.

Back then you could find a lot of nice coins in circulation. One day I found a real nice 1914D Buffalo in XF. I had all the Buffalos except for the overdate and the three-legged.

So thanks to Harry Fuller I became a Coin Collector.

JULY QUIZ

1. What was the second issue price of the 1983S Proof Olympic Silver Dollar?
2. The "unfinished pyramid" appears on the left or right on the back of the \$1 bill (don't peek!)
3. In what city are the main offices of the U.S. Mint?
4. What nation first issued the Maria Theresa Thaler?

JUNE ANSWERS

1. Half Dollar. 2. San Marino.
3. To the Right. 4. Abraham Lincoln.

NEW NAME

This issue is the first under our new name of *NAHSUA NUMISMATIST*. You see on the first page one of the several concepts for a banner that have been laid out. Different styles will be used each month until one that everybody likes is found. If you have a suggestion, please give it to the editor.

EDITORIAL

Alan brings up an interesting point in his column this month: that collectors would not be as enthusiastic about their coins if they did not appreciate in value. I have to differ.

I believe that a true coin collector will collect even if the coins' value plummets. The true collector is interested in the objects themselves and value is secondary. While top-end coins usually hold their value well, most collector coins in the F-AU range do not. This is a hobby, and to expect a return on "investment" on such notoriously poor performers as coins is putting the wrong emphasis on the endeavor. I am in it for the pure enjoyment of the pursuit, the thrill of the chase, the satisfaction of completing a set, and the massive knowledge gained while doing it. Coin collecting is like drinking beer in one respect: lots of enjoyment but not a lot of return.

Bob

DEADLINES

The Secretary will be on travel for most of August and part of September. Will somebody please take the minutes in August and get them to me soonest so I can get them written up between trips. Also, the deadline for the next issue will be the same meeting. Several members still have not written up their "How I Got Started" pieces, and we know that everybody is curious about your part of the hobby. Give them to Alan who will give them to me. Thanks.



.....a Point of
View.....

from.....
Small Cents II



Small Cents II July Auction is now history. Typically for a summer auction, attendance was not as strong as other times during the year but overall it was successful.

As all my auctions have taught me, you can never predict what series of coins will garner the most attention. For the past several auctions, copper coins and in particular, Indian cents, have not attracted a very strong response. However this time around they were probably the stars of the show. Silver dollars continue to bring strong response from the bidders also. Mercury dime, Walking Liberty Halves, and Commemorative were very weak and surprisingly, certified coins were weak as well.

Several club members were in attendance including our newest addition, young Tim. He seemed to enjoy himself immensely and was also a successful bidder for a couple lots. My thanks to all who participated or left bids. I hope everyone enjoyed it and picked up something to add to his collection.

We had some interesting group lots as well as medals and tokens, including some Nashua material. Mr. Pickering was able to add a few Nashua woodies to his collection and Mr. Fritsch also picked up a few lots.

Next Auction is at the NENA convention in Merrimack, September 19th. Anyone wishing to consign, please do so early as this promises to be a big one. At least I hope so.

The ANA is swiftly approaching. I'm planning to attend. Never been to Oregon so I'm looking forward to a new experience. I also hope to be successful in the auction by Heritage. Anyone who'd like me to keep an eye out for any specific coins, don't hesitate to ask.

The coin market continues to be strong, even though bullion continues to fluctuate. There have been major advances in many series. Silver Dollars, Indian and Lincoln Cents, and Buffalo nickels have shown steady advances; Dollars especially are very hot. Has anyone noticed the price increase in the 1955/55 doubled die? Nice BU examples are now trading for in excess of \$1,000.00.

I continue to have success with auctions on the internet. Response has dropped off a bit since the early auctions but this is in keeping with the usual drop off in sales during the summer when everyone has so many other activities competing for attention. I have trouble myself keeping up with the coins, while traipsing all over New Hampshire following my son's baseball exploits. It would be nice to take a little family vacation though, at least that's what my wife keeps telling me. Oh well, maybe next year.

I've also made arrangements to attend Long Beach again in late September, the week after NENA in fact, so the remainder of the summer promises to be very busy indeed. Hope you all have been enjoying yours as well.

Till next time. Warmest regards,
Gary

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HOBBY OF KINGS



AUGUST 1998
Volume 2 Number 8
Whole Number 19

Nashua Numismatist

August Highlights

5 members and 5 guests present. Guests: Tim and Jacinta Walant returned for their second meeting. Mike Tannian brought along two young numismatists, Cat Balboni and Ryan Tannian. Since we had a small turnout of regular members due to summer vacations, and the ANA show, we decided to eliminate the business section of the meeting, and concentrate on welcoming the newcomers. Cat and Ryan explained how they got started in the hobby, asked where they could obtain good reference material, and where to obtain coins. The "veteran" collectors gave their insights on such topics as why and what we collect, do plenty of research, and to not rush into a purchase unless it feels right. The 2 hour session flew by, with a lot of input by all in attendance on various topics. a good time was had by all.....

AUGUST QUIZ

1. A coinage system that uses two different precious metals is known as what?
2. The coinage of Queen Juliana of the Netherlands pictured who on the obverse?
3. Name the three Generals appearing on current Federal Reserve Notes.
4. What two languages appear on the FUGIO cent?

JULY ANSWERS

1. \$29. 2. Left. 3. Washington, D.C. 4. Austria.

Just a shortie this month. Things go back to normal in Sep. Enclosed is a goodie from the Fed. See you at the meeting! Bring some articles. Bob

PREZ SEZ....

A very important reminder that the 1998 NENA conference and convention is scheduled for September 18 and 19 in Merrimack, NH. As the host club it is important that we spread the word, and help out in any way possible. Let's help welcome the New England numismatic community to the Nashua area. Have really enjoyed the young(er) collectors that have visited with us at our last 2 meetings. One of the most important parts of this hobby should be the sharing of any knowledge we have gathered with the next generation. In addition, how many of us have excess literature, catalogs, and coins that we longer use/need, but would be greatly appreciated by new collectors. Something to think about.... Until next time.....

How I Got Started: Tim Samson

My dad got me started in collecting coins at the not so young age of 13, when he gave me a 1973 proof set for Christmas. I started looking through all my change every time I went to the store and saved all the wheat pennies. The amount of coins and the place to keep them became a problem, so I decided not to buy any coins myself.

That same year he gave me a Scott's US stamp album with several stamps already mounted (many mint state) with the hinge type mounts. I was so impressed with the looks of the different types of stamps, and really was not interested in coins. I thought collecting stamps would be easier because they could be put into albums, would store easier, and are lighter. So I started going down to

the Nashua Stamp and Coin Shop on Main St where I would go through the misc mounted stamps to fill my album. My parents started buying me the yearly commemorative stamp sets in 1973. Then in 1986 I joined The Stamp Club through the US Postal Service. In 1990 I started getting discouraged with the Postal Service and the amount of stamps (another Govt program being flooded) they were coming out with every and the cost, so I dropped the program.

Getting back to coin collecting, I myself started back up around 1983 by getting on the US Mint's mailing list and purchasing the yearly mint sets. I bought my first commem in 1986, the ever so popular and high demanding Statue of Liberty set. I used to go to the Nashua Mall coin shows and really enjoyed them and would pick up a few coins here and there. 1986 was the year I started working at Chandler Library, and if I'm not mistaken the coin club started meeting at Chandler in '89 or '90 in the study hall upstairs. In '90 or '91 the meetings were switched to its current location. That same year I met a gentleman, ad knowledgeable coin dealer and NCC secretary by the name of Ed Dame. I told him I had a small collection of my own coins and would be interested to see what the club was about. He asked if I would like to come to the meeting and I've been a member since.

I still get the proof set from my dad at Christmas every year, and I still buy my mint set (sucker). I started a collection (proof set) for each of my three girls the year they were born and a complete set of uncirculated silver eagles and will continue to do so.

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HISTORY IN YOUR HAND



SEPTEMBER 1998

Volume 2 Number 9

Whole Number 20

Nashua Numismatist

PREZ SEZ...

Thank you to all the NCC members who helped in so many ways at the recent NENA show in Merrimack. Your help and attendance was most appreciated. Special mention to Bob Fritsch and Gary Galbo who put in MANY HOURS before, during and after the show. Just a reminder, the next NCC meeting on Monday, October 12, 1998 will be at Small Cents II, and we will have a pizza party/meeting for all members. Should be a good time, hope to see you all. A good item for show and tell - the new \$20.00 bill.... I can't find one.. If you can bring one, I'm sure it would be a good item to pass around. Until next meeting.... Hold the anchovies.... Alan

SEPTEMBER QUIZ

1. Name the three alloys found in Kennedy Half Dollars.
2. Where can you change your Krona into Aurar?
3. What was the first year of the nickel five-cent piece?
4. When did the Dahlonaga Mint reopen after the Civil War?

AUGUST ANSWERS

1. Bimetallic currency. 2. Queen Juliana. 3. Washington, Jackson, Grant. 4. Latin and English.

SEPTEMBER HILITES

- Ten members and two guests.
- John Statkum had had two mild heart attacks; concern and well-wishes were extended.
- NENA show this weekend, several members volunteered their services.
- Buffalo nickels passed around, members urged to spend them quickly.
- Progress of NH Quarter reported by Bob Fritsch.
- A Trifold brochure will be produced this week so it will be available for the NENA show.
- Suggestion to assemble some YN starter kits received favorably
- Reports of the recent ANA Convention in Portland, OR were given by Bob Fritsch and Gary Galbo.
- A recent Scofield auction featured several pieces of Confederate money and the prices were huge.
- Auction called by Charlie Dube with Don Pickering as runner.
- Ken Cable showed a mystery 1826 silver coin and an AU 1833 1/2 Cent.
- Bob Fritsch reported on his exonomia finds in Alaska.
- Next month's meeting will be held at Small Cents II where pizza and soda will be the featured guest.

FRANCIS O'CLAIR

On 19 October, the collection of former NCC President Francis O'Clair will be auctioned at the Frank Jones Conference Center in Portsmouth, NH. We would appreciate an article about Mr. O'Clair as he is far before the time of most of us in the club.

PIZZA PARTY!

It's that time of year again where the library is closed on our night due to the Columbus weekend holiday. Amazingly, this year uses the actual date of the holiday! So we will be meeting at Small Cents II, 95 W. Pearl Street in Nashua for Pizza and soda/coffee. **Bring seats** as there are not enough in the shop for everybody. This is one of the many benefits of NCC membership!

COIN OF THE MONTH

We haven't had one for a few months so will continue where we left off. Rules are simple:

1. Participation strictly voluntary.
2. Everybody is encouraged to bring facts and/or anecdotes about the coin.
3. Members who bring a featured coin place them in a pool and receive a ticket.
4. One ticket will be drawn at random; the winner gets all the coins in the pool.

THIS MONTH:

SILVER

WASHINGTON QUARTER

UPCOMING EVENTS

4 Oct - Fitchburg
9 Oct - Searsport, ME
11 Oct - Auburn
12 Oct - Scofield Auction Nashua
17 Oct - TRI-STATE in Concord
18 Oct - THIRD SUNDAY @
HOLIDAY INN
18 Oct - Pine Tree in Orono, ME
19 Oct - Auction Portsmouth*
25 Oct - Chelmsford
25 Oct - West Springfield, MA
1 Nov - Portland, ME
1 Nov - Fitchburg
8 Nov - Auburn
9 Nov - Rockland, ME
14 Nov - SMALL CENTS II
AUCTION
15 Nov - THIRD SUNDAY @
HOLIDAY INN
20-22 Nov - Bay State
22 Nov - Chelmsford
29 Nov - New Bedford, MA
* = see article

SEARCHING FOR THE ELUSIVE PENNY SQUASHER

by Bob Fritsch

In my travels about the world, I am always on the lookout for the elusive Penny Squasher, or to be more technically correct, a coin-operated elongating machine. These are the machines that take a couple (or more) of your quarters plus one other coin, usually a penny (er, cent), and return it in a converted form, mainly long and flat with some design on it. This process is known as elongating and is the subject of a rapidly growing niche in numismatics.

There are several machine locators, or registers, on the World Wide Web. The ones I visit the most are Bert Creighton's Smashed Coin Locator at <http://solutions.fgm.com/staff/bc/smashedcoins.html>, and Willy Massey's Hitchhiker's Guide to Elongated Coins at <http://www.clark.net/pub/massey/hhg/states.htm>. Both listings are needed to get a good picture of what's out there and where it is.

As extensive as these lists are, they are far from complete. That is where the fun comes in: finding an unlisted machine. I have been on the road extensively the past couple of months and am happy to report no less than *seven* "Discovery" machines not listed above, plus one machine that has incomplete information in the SCL.

Early August saw me in the Pacific Northwest, visiting my brother in Seattle and attending the ANA Convention Portland. The first machine found was in Seattle's Ye Olde Curiosity Shop on the waterfront. SCL indicates a machine there with no hard data provided. Of course there were plenty of elongates in Portland as TEC (The Elongated Collectors) was there rolling thousands of pennies (and whatever other coin you provided) with the official ANA show design or the TEC show design. (TEC also had their annual meeting and a picnic hosted by a local member, but that is the subject of another article.)

Just a week at home passed before I found myself on Florida's Gulf Coast close to the Alabama line. This was Official Business – I had to teach an equipment operation class to the Navy for my company. But there was plenty of time for exploration and I found four machines in two locations in nearby 'Bama. Both places were Souvenir City stores, one in Orange Beach and one in Gulf Shores. They are on that little thumb of land on the Gulf between Mobile Bay on the west and Florida on the east. The Gulf Shores location (which you entered through a huge shark's mouth) had a penny machine that did the Lord's Prayer, and a dime machine (called Dime-N-Mine) that recorded the location and featured the shark. The Orange Beach location had two penny machines that had identical designs of a sailboat and setting (rising?) sun. The only difference between the two is the legend, one for Gulf Shores and the other for Orange Beach. Both are double sided with a printed legend "Souvenir City/since 1956" on the flip side. Other places in the Pensacola area were explored with no results. I had to cut that trip short as Hurricane Earl was trying to interfere with my travel plans.

Two days after arriving home, my wife and I were winging our way to Alaska for a train-riding adventure on the Alaska RR and the White Pass & Yukon Railway. Our first stop was Anchorage where two machines were found, both at souvenir stands one block apart. Amazingly, the machines were made by the same people who did the Orange Beach machines! The first was at Grizzly's Gifts on 4th Ave, and it was also a double sider. The Grizzly's Gifts on 5th didn't have one. The second was from Polar Bear Gifts also on 4th, single-sided, and again, the other stores in the chain did not have a machine. [I have since found out that there was a third machine in Anchorage.]

A couple of days later we were in Denali National Park, and found two more machines, both hand cranked enclosed in Plexiglas, and each bearing four designs. One was at the gift shop in the McKinley Chalet Resort and the other was in the Alaska RR station gift shop. Of the eight designs provided, four were unique and the other four were varieties of each other (2+2). The final machine was a single design machine found in Skagway's WP&Y station, featuring a train.

There are three NH machines I have yet to visit: The Winnepesaukee RR station in Weir's Beach; the Casino in Hampton Beach, and Chunky's in Pelham. One of these weekends, I will take a grand tour and hit all three!

ANA'S MONEY TALKS

Transcript No. 1216

June 2, 1997

ENCASED POSTAGE

By Mark Van Winkle

The old saying "necessity is the mother of invention" seems to be especially true during times of war. During the American Civil War, the public resorted to some unusual substitutes to replace coins that could no longer be found in circulation. Today we'll hear about encased postage stamps, used instead of coins for a short time during the Civil War. In the war's first years, the South won most of the major battles. Public confidence in the Union's ability to win the war was low. As a result, the general public started hoarding coins of all metals--gold, silver, and even copper. They did this so they would have some precious metal for their savings, just in case the South won the war and the Union fell to pieces. This created an instant shortage of circulating coins, and premiums were paid by merchants for small-denomination coins they could use for making change. Some merchants were forced to issue their own money in the form of cardboard promises to pay if the holder of the note would bring the "store card" to their establishment. Others issued small copper tokens.

But one of the most ingenious coin substitutes was invented by a New York merchant named John Gault, who patented a process for encasing a postage stamp inside a brass holder and covering the front of the stamp with mica, a translucent mineral similar to glass. The process caught on very quickly, and Gault issued what became known as "encased postage" for no fewer than 31 merchants in the New England area. They served a dual purpose during their short life span... providing much-needed small change, while also leaving the back of the brass encasement blank so the merchant could advertise his store or product.

In little more than a year, Union army victories rallied public support, and silver and copper coins began to reappear. Encased postage was soon forgotten by all but the few collectors of the day. This has been "Money Talks." Today's program was written by Mark Van Winkle and underwritten by COIN PRICES magazine, providing its readers with the latest values on U-S coins. "Money Talks" is a copyrighted production of the American Numismatic Association, 818 N. Cascade Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80903, 719/632-2646, ana@money.org, <http://www.money.org>.

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**NEXT MEETING 12 OCTOBER
AT GARY'S SHOP**

N.C.C

P.O. BOX 3003

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HISTORY IN YOUR HAND



OCTOBER 1998
Volume 2 Number 10
Whole Number 21

Nashua Numismatist

PREZ SEZ....

It appeared a good time was had by all the NCC members who attended the October meeting/pizza party at Small Cents II on October 12th. Many thanks to Gary Galbo for inviting us to his store. Of all the coin shops I have had the pleasure of visiting, Small Cents II is a place you can just go and relax, talk, browse, and have a good time without having to make a purchase. Although, I have been known to make a few. Anyway, thanks again Gary....

As I looked at the recent listing of upcoming events in the New England area, it is amazing how much activity is going on. A typical weekend has 2 shows somewhere in our vicinity, which tells me that the hobby is strong and growing. November 20, 21, 22 is the Bay State show which is usually a first class operation. Make preliminary plans and we can discuss at the next meeting as to sharing rides and having a good time in the Big City....

See you all on Monday, November 9 at the library for the next NCC meeting. No pizza this time, but I will be happy to bring a dozen donuts. Someone bring the coffee. Until then....
Alan

OCTOBER HILITES

- Twelve members and four guests present.
- The club will endorse Bill Horton of NJ for ANA Governor as will a few members.
- Report of the NENA show. Gary Galbo said that it was a lot of work and it prevented him from doing business at the show. Bob Fritsch thought the show was positive. Alan Brouillard had the pleasure of

meeting folks and the setup dinners and the YN Program. He won a raffle prize and successfully bid the Governor's Proclamation at auction which he then donated to the club.

-- Bob and Gary were featured in a *Union Leader* article and it was passed around.

-- NH Quarter report: Submissions are due on 14 October press release due soon.

-- Gary Galbo showed several new books and offered the usual discount to club members.

-- Don Pickering reported that Sunny Dame is very sick.

The new \$20 bills are out and they were distributed quickly. They are new and the change is good for numismatics but workmanship on the note is shoddy.

-- Ken Young was on the radio this past month.

-- New member Tom Fiero was introduced; he is recently released from the Marines and lives in his hometown of Nashua. He collects general coinage, especially Morgan and Peace Dollars.

-- A 1945 cent was shown around then became Timmy Walant's property.

-- During the break, four pizzas rapidly disappeared.

-- Ken Cable told of his experiences at the NENA show and the JRCS presentations. He showed an article about counterfeiting in Maine in 1834 and passed around a MS-62 1839 Bust Half.

-- A short conversation about the Y2K bug touched on gold and silver and credit cards and what would happen to them.

-- Bart Bartanowicz was thanked for his great job on the club brochure.

COIN OF THE MONTH

Coin of the Month was the Silver Washington Quarter, 1932 - 1964. The change to clad coinage resulted in a massive redemption of silver (Gresham's Law). Silver rings much nicer than clad. Silver usage was discussed. Key coins are 1932-D & S as 90% of them grade AG. All other dates are very common. 1998 will see the last Washington Quarter as we know it as the 50 States coins start in 1999. There will be 20 different quarters next year: 5 states with mintmarks P&D, S Proofs, and Silver Proofs from maybe West Point(?). Alan Brouillard won seven coins in the drawing.

Next: Roll of Wheat Cents.

OCTOBER QUIZ

1. What war hero US President appears on more Hard Times Tokens than anyone else?
2. What is the nickname shared by 1797 British penny and twopenny peices and US silver dollars?
3. In what year was the title INDIAE EMPERATOR dropped from British coinage?
4. What were the three denominations of the first Massachusetts silver coins (1652)?

SEPTEMBER ANSWERS

1. 90% silver, 40% silver clad, CuNi clad.
2. Iceland.
3. 1866.
4. It didn't.

Just a short one this month.
WE NEED STORIES FROM
YOU!

1998 OFFICERS

President - Alan Brouillard
VP1 - Gary Galbo
VP2 - Carl Greenbaum
Secretary/Treasurer - Bob Fritsch
Director - Don Pickering
Librarian - Roger Levesque
Editor - Bob Fritsch

This Newsletter is published monthly by the Nashua (NH) Coin Club. Entire contents are copyright © 1998 by the Nashua Coin Club. Questions, comments, and articles may be sent to PO Box 3003, Nashua, NH 03061-3003 or to rfritsch@concentric.net on email. Deadline is the last Friday of the month.

Phone queries may be made to 881-9211. The Club meets on the second Monday of every month in the Chandler Memorial Library, 257 Main Street, Nashua.

NEXT MEETING 9 NOVEMBER AT THE LIBRARY

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HISTORY IN YOUR HAND



NOVEMBER 1998
Volume 2 Number 11
Whole Number 22

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

-- 15 members and 2 guests present.
-- Guest Randy Bullis was introduced.
-- Report on the NH Quarter. Five design concepts have been submitted to the Mint: Two ideas featuring the Old Man, with a soaring eagle or state outline and/or nine stars; Robert Frost imagery, with birch trees and mountains and the road less traveled; a covered bridge with birch trees; and a town meeting hall, recalling NH's strong local political scene. The Mint will return designs in February for final selection.
-- NCC Past President Frances O'Clair was mentioned exactly once in *The Nonagon*. Gary Galbo went to the auction of his coins which were pretty much garbage.
-- Sunny Dame is staying with her son and there is no communication with her.
-- It was moved and passed to donate \$100 to the Santa Fund.
-- Everyone who has not yet submitted an article about "How I Got Started Collecting Coins" were strongly encouraged to do so. We will start a new series on "My Favorite Coin or Series" with the next issue.

-- Collecting 50 States Designs was discussed. there will be twenty coins per year: Circulation strikes from Philly and Denver, Proof from SF, and Silver Proof from SF or West Point. Gary Galbo recommends buying from the Mint so all coins can be gotten. He says that quarters are hot right now and he can't keep them in stock. Distribution of these coins is uncertain. The Delaware coin is scheduled for introduction in Switzerland!
-- The new dollar coin will depict Sacajewea but nobody knows what she looks like.
-- Silver is trading hot.
-- Internet trading is becoming more prevalent. A dealer in NH can sell to a collector in NM, and not just coins. Show and Tell: a nice album of Israeli money; cameo proofs which can be cherrypicked; a book about German and Austrian commemorative coins, and another about heraldry, both by the same author.
-- Gary Galbo has several new books from Dave Bowers available.
-- Alan Brouillard was celebrating his birthday and gave a prize coin to the YN who most closely guessed his year of birth. Timmy Walant won with 1956 (1953 is

correct).

-- During the break, lots of coffee and donuts were consumed, auction lots were viewed, and good talk was heard around the room. Roger Levesque volunteered to bring donuts next month.
-- There was a general call for articles for the newsletter.
-- The Quiz answers were revealed and drew several good comments.
-- Charlie Dube, assisted by Don Pickering, conducted the auction which featured spirited bidding (for once).
-- There was a lot of general gab and pictures were taken by the Secretary.
-- Next meeting is 14 December.
-- A most excellent meeting!

COIN OF THE MONTH

Lincoln Wheaties by the roll. 1909-1958. No mintmark for Philly. Keys are 09S-VDB, 22 plain, 14D, 31S, 55 doubled die. Gary Galbo completed a Lincoln Set then became a dealer as all challenge disappeared. The fun is in getting the coins. If you want it for your collection, price is secondary. Five rolls were won. **Next: Silver War Nickels**

PREZ SEZ...

Nice to see such a good turnout at the November meeting. The attendance, exuberance and materials you bring are what make for a good meeting. Keep up the good work.

To those who will not be able to attend the December meeting, let me offer the warmest Season's Greetings to you. May "Santa" bring you all those key coins, new books, and special supplies you have on your WISH LIST.

For years I always struggled as to what to put on my wish list. But, once you get involved in a hobby the wish list starts to get very long. Oh well, until next time...

Alan

NOVEMBER QUIZ

1. Who do the initials "JS" on the Roosevelt Dime identify?

BONUS: These initials were thought to denote what famous world figure?

2. What southern republic declared its independence from Mexico during the Hard Times era?

3. Who appears on the obverse of the Monroe Doctrine Centennial Half of 1923?

4. What direction does Queen Elizabeth face on the coins of Great Britain?

OCTOBER ANSWERS

1. Andrew Jackson. 2. Cartwheel.
3. 1949. 4. Threepence, sixpence, shilling

My Favorite Coins

by Carl Greenbaum

Like many collectors, I enjoy and appreciate coins that tell a story. The St. Gaudens double eagle tells the story of Teddy Roosevelt's desire to improve the look of America's "boring" coins. Bust coinage tells the story of the talented and always underpaid John Reich but the "best" story goes back a lot further.

My favorite coins are the zuzim struck by the Jews during the Bar Kochba revolt in 132-135 C.E. particularly those that were overstrikes of Roman "JUDEA CAPTA" coins of Vespasian and Titus.

Here's the story: In 66 C.E. the Jews in the Land of Israel revolted against the oppressive Roman authorities. Though it was a valiant effort, the mighty Roman legions ultimately crushed the Jewish revolt. But it took 5 long years. Roman General Vespasian who began the war was by then Emperor and the siege of Jerusalem was completed by Vespasian's son Titus. To advertise their victory over the Jews, the Romans struck an extensive series of coins depicting the defeat of Judea. Typical themes were a female figure sitting, sometimes with hand bound behind her, beneath a palm tree. The palm tree was the symbol of Judea. Legends on these coins included JUDEA CAPTA, JUDEA INVICTUS or simply JUDEA. Coins with this theme were struck under the reigns of Vitellius, Vespasian, Titus, and arguably Domitian. They circulated widely in the Land of Israel to remind the population of their defeat. Many were silver denarii about 23 mm and 3-3.5 gr.

But the "Great Revolt" was not the last. In 132 C.E. the Jews once again revolted against Rome. This time the Jewish leader was Simon Bar Kochba, thought by some to be the messiah. Just as during the first revolt, the Jews struck coins to proclaim their independence. Also, as in the first revolt, the designs of the coins honored the commandment about avoiding "graven images", thus no human or animal images were on the coins. Common themes were palm trees, palm branches, bunches of grapes, wreaths, trumpets and lyres.

But what about raw materials? These coins were struck in Jerusalem while besieged by the Romans. Where would the silver come from? From existing circulating coinage of course! So it

came to pass that some Bar Kochba Revolt coins were overstruck on the JUDEA CAPTA issues of the preceding 50 years. How fitting.

My collection includes two zuzim from the Bar Kochba revolt. Both overstruck on Roman denarii. On one coin the underlying design is undecipherable. On the other the broad head and chin of Vespasian shows through but none of the reverse. It could be a JUDEA CAPTA coin although confirmed examples of JUDEA CAPTA overstrikes are rare. Still, it might be!

FRANCIS O'CLAIR

The collection of Past President Francis O'Clair is up for auction October 19 in Portsmouth. There is a lot of problem copper in his collection -- more like a hoard. Club records were lost so little is remembered of him. He was President in the early - mid 70s, and was patient and well mannered.

MY '98 NENA ADVENTURES

by Ken Cable

Friday September 18. Arrive at the show, and get my personalized name tag for being a member of "The Committee", courtesy of my coin club. I'm pressed for time. After all, this is a workday. But I've a hankerin' for a Reeded Edge Capped Bust Half in mint state, even if I have to take some "V" time. I'm a member of the John Reich Collectors Society (JRCS), and a budding "Bust Half Nut", and in recent months I've grown especially fond of the Reeded Edges. The JRCS has its meeting tomorrow, and I hope today to acquire a Reeded Edge to show to my cronies. Soon I spot an 1837 half in certified MS-62, nice for the grade, I felt. But I think the price is too steep. Unfortunately, I don't have the time or inclination to bargain. Tomorrow is another day.

Saturday, September 19. Been tossin' and turnin' all night, thinking about that '37. I've decided I wanted it after all, if I could dicker some. But there's quite a bit on tap this morning before I can start "Cruisin'." JRCS's Keith Davignon is giving an exciting presentation about counterfeit Bust halves, which includes some input by yours truly. My wife and kids are attending Larry Gentile's YN program, and Tracy [my younger daughter] wins a two-dollar bill. Then the free Kids' Club Meals to follow at Burger King. I tag along with the family, and of course, I gotta wait out Christie and Tracy playing in the colored balls. Meanwhile, I give away a 1788 Mass Colony cent to a YN I met at lunch. Poor condition but a piece of historical conversation.

Back on the bourse floor, I find to my dismay that the '37 half was sold! That was such a nice coin -- how could I have let it get away? And I don't recall seeing any other "unc" Reeded Edges yesterday. My hopes are dashed!

As a last-ditch effort to land a Reeded Edge, up & down the aisles I go. I see most of the same dealers and most of the same coins that I've already seen. About to leave the show empty-handed, my eyes behold a beautiful sight -- a Reeded Edge half, certified by NGC as MS-62. And it's not an 1837, it's an 1839! (a much better date). I take out my loupe and decide it's "PQ" for the grade. No question about it, this is the one for me! Sharp strike as usual, cascading original luster and "root beer barrel" toning, and a cool die break -- a real beaut! Anyway, I make and offer and accept the counter-offer which I think is quite reasonable. Pen goes in hand, slab goes in back pocket.

So it turns out to be a blessing in disguise the I missed out on the 1837 half. Had I got the '37, I'd have gone home not knowing about the '39! Made my day, made my NENA show. Talk about a happy camper!

HOW I GOT STARTED IN COIN COLLECTING **Gary Galbo**

The year was 1962. The splendid splinter had retired from the Red Sox and a new young phenom had arrived to take his place. I had yet to play my first organized game but the interest and love for baseball had begun as had my first interest in "collecting" with the introduction to baseball cards.

I was the oldest of four sons ranging from 3 years to 8 years of age, and with fifth due to join us within a couple years. My family was richer in children than monetarily and as a result my parents were always on the lookout for ways to keep us occupied and out of mischief. As a group we tended to be an active and energetic band and could be more than a handful for any parent. Toward this end, my mom came upon the idea of packing me off once a week to the Cub Scouts. One of my neighborhood buddies got me interested and mom was happy to lessen her load wherever and whenever possible.

Soon I was earnestly working my way towards merit badges, and along the way got interested in collecting. I was already the proud owner of several thousand baseball cards but this was anything but an organized endeavor.

One of my friends had an out of state uncle who was an avid numismatist. I first became enamored with the title "numismatist" but after seeing the Lincoln Penny boards my friends' uncle had set him up with, I soon became interested in the challenge of filling one myself. In no time several of us had purchased "thumb busters" and were pedaling our bicycles the 2 miles to the bank once a week or so to pick up rolls of pennies to search through. Before long I had filled book 2 but for the 1955-S and had made a good dent in book 2. I became particularly adept at determining the date and mint mark of coins so badly worn or damaged that the date was all but obliterated. I found that more often than not these coins turned out to be early "S" mint issues and as a result began to make steady progress towards completing the series.

Years passed and although my interests were many and varied I always seemed to come back to my coin collection. Periodically, with the encouragement of my dad and other relatives, I continued to add to it in spurts here and there.

Once I reached High school, my interest seemed to wane with the discovery of girls and participation in sports, and for a period of years my collection was relegated to an old box and tucked into the back of a closet.

After high school and college, and a much too young marriage, with only minor additions made over this period of years, I found myself in 1978 with a year old daughter, living in Huntington, West Virginia, when

the silver boom hit to suddenly perk my interest. I still remember going into a local shop and selling a small hoard of duplicate silver coins and silver dollars (approximately \$800.00 in face value) for the unheard of price of \$19,000.00. Of course my young wife and I were overwhelmed with our good fortune!

After paying off a good many debts, buying a new car and some furniture, I proceeded to fill those last holes in my Lincoln and Indian sets and upgraded the many fillers with VF-XF coins, all the while continuing to buy and sell silver to supplement my collecting funds. I also found myself able to pursue a silver Dollar collection, which before now had always been beyond my means.

Within a short period of time I had wormed my way into the good offices of a local dealer whose primary interest was stamps and who, in exchange for badly needed weekend assistance with the coins, was more than happy to give me the run of his store as well as the opportunity to get first crack at anything that came in. I can still remember Saturday mornings at his store, pouring through bags and buckets of coins in search of hidden treasures, with Christina in tow. I would put Christy in a corner of the store playing with a few toys, while I spent hours looking through thousands of coins.

Keep in mind that during this silver craze manipulated by the Hunt Brothers, people were lined up to sell bullion and out of necessity, dealers had to restrict them to an appointment basis. My dealer friend was buying thousands of dollars in face value of silver coins daily, and never had the time to search through it all, so I did it for him. The craze continued for 5 or 6 months before silver started to drop in price and the frenzy had abated.

During this time, I had completed my collections and started to buy and sell coins in my own right. I had started a Type collection and begun to procure higher grade and uncirculated specimens and put together a pretty nice collection overall. But I found my interest in the coins wasn't the same. I didn't get so much enjoyment out of owning the coins any more. It was the search and the acquisition that excited me. I began to sell more coins to give me more capital for purchasing coins. Thus I became a part-time dealer. By late 1979, Small Cents was born. I started to advertise nationally and ran a monthly price list. I soon began running mail bid auctions and by 1983 had stopped collecting coins altogether, and only purchased coins for resale.

Then as most of you know, in 1996 I realized a long standing dream and opened my store in Nashua. Now I can spend almost all my waking hours, handling coins. I probably will never be wealthy except in terms of friends and fellow numismatists who share my love for the hobby.

ED SEZ... Great Issue, cram packed with articles. *My Favorite Coin* kicks off with Carl's great story. This is as it should be. Keep 'em coming!



.....a Point of
View.....



from..... Small Cents II

Greetings from the other side, sorry it's been so long since my last contribution to the newsletter, but the days just seem to run together and I keep missing the deadlines.

Having just returned from the Greater Baltimore coin show and convention, I can happily report the state of our hobby continues to remain very strong. The coin market is hopping and excitement is mounting in anticipation of the major new coinage changes scheduled for 1999. The new quarter designs can only give the hobby a welcome shot in the arm and the entire industry is waiting with baited breath.

We are already finding a strong increase in collector interest for the current Washington series as the end of the year approaches. The series has increased sharply in price and demand in higher grades, particularly in the middle years from 1940 to 1955, where high grade MS65 examples have long been very affordable. Prices have increased from \$12 to \$15 in MS65 grade to the \$25 to \$30 range in a very short period of time. I would venture to say they are still a bargain at this level as demand is sure to increase and push the price up further with the advent of the new designs.

Indian head and Lincoln cents continue to show a steady increase in price

and popularity as the staples of the hobby and reflect the overall increase in numismatic interest. Morgan and Peace silver dollars are on the rise as well. The "y2k" situation appears to be the driving force for circulated issues with common circ dollars now commanding \$10 price tags in VG to VF condition and \$11-\$14 in XF and AU. Peace dollars have jumped dramatically from the \$7 range to \$9.50 and up in F-XF ! Circulated silver coin itself is now trading strongly at well above silver prices with \$100 face bags demanding in the \$4300.00 range. Personally, I think this is all a bit on the fringe of lunacy but I won't complain about the positive effects on the business.

My latest auction was somewhat lightly attended, could be partially due to the lower number of lots, but the bidding activity, particularly in silver dollars and gold was spirited. Next auction is scheduled for January 23rd, 1999. Consignment deadline is by Christmas for any of you interested.

As we approach the holidays, the focus in Numismatics changes a bit, as it does in every other business, with the frenzy of gift giving. With this in mind, we have beefed up our stock of supplies and numismatic literature and reference material. For those of you whose family always finds it difficult to come up with gift ideas, I would be happy to point them in the right direction and treat them to the coin club discount at the same time.

Guess I'll sign off for now. Hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday season.

Til next we meet,

Gary

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THE WELLSPRING OF KNOWLEDGE



NASHUA NUMISMATIST

DECEMBER 1998
Volume 2 Number 12
Whole Number 23

PREZ SEZ...

Happy 1999 to all NCC members. What an exciting time to be a collector. The last coins of the twentieth century, a new dollar coin, the 50 states commemorative program, new currency - and that is just in America. In Europe, as the Euro is introduced, 12 countries will eventually cease their current coinage. All over the world exciting, interesting things are happening. We are living in a truly historical moment. WE KNOW what is about to happen, but are we doing a good job spreading the news?

On Christmas day at my parent's house, with 14 people in attendance, I asked if anyone knew that there would be a new quarter in circulation within 1 month. Nobody had any idea what I was talking about. It amazes me that our national politicians can start running for political office 1 or 2 years in advance of an election, but no advance notice is given to the American people about a new \$20.00 bill or a new quarter. Oh well- that's Washington for you.

Anyway, I hope everyone has a Happy and Healthy new year. See you at the next meeting.

Alan

DECEMBER HILITES

- Santa fund letter with the \$100 Club donation, and photos taken last meeting shown.

- Annual club election of officers will be in January. Anyone interested in serving the club should raise hand.

- Bay State Show: Tim Walant bought a 1909 V.D.B. and a 1934 cent. Carl Greenbaum talked about (132-135 CE) ancient coins without too much success. Gary Galbo noted that Bay State has 200 dealers while major national shows have 500-1000+

- Serendipity on a recent business trip: meeting in Conf. Rm #2, LA Stamp & Coin Society show in Conf. Room #1!

- Carl Greenbaum saw a 2 reale Atocha silver coin sell for over \$200 on the ebay internet auction. Several days later he purchased a similar coin for \$75 at a local auction, went home and sold it on the internet to the underbidder for \$150.

- Compliments to the editor and the article contributors for an outstanding newsletter.

- Discussions of Gary's article set off a discussion of \$50 an ounce silver and how it ended some collections and started some others while many people, though not everyone made money.

- Gary talked about his first ANA show when the Garrett Collection, including an 1804 dollar was auctioned. The winning bidder displayed the coin at his bourse table and let people look at and hold the coin. Gary was not impressed!

- Don Pickering talked about his

silver purchases and sales during the silver peak.

- Prospects of discontinuing penny production discussed. A straw vote showed 2:1 in favor of keeping it, though some members thought the penny's days are numbered.

- Small Cents has an auction coming up in January, consignment deadline is December 24.

- The quiz was held over until next month due to lack of time.

- President Brouillard and the officers wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

- Next meeting will be **Jan 11th**.

DECEMBER QUIZ

1. What country struck coins with only seven different dates in its entire existence before its present ruler ascended the throne and now has over 800 KM numbers today?
2. What country uses a springbok on its precious metal coins? Extra: What is a springbok?
3. Name two non-Presidents appearing on current Federal Reserve Notes.
4. What was the oldest continuously operating mint in the new world until it closed down last year?

NOVEMBER ANSWERS

1. John Sinnock, Chief Engraver of the Mint / Joseph Stalin, USSR Dictator. 2. Texas. 3. James Monroe and John Quincy Adams. 4. Right.

Waxing Nostalgically: I Miss the "Circulating" Half-Dollar! by Bart Baranowicz

Americans under the age of 40 have for the most part missed the experience of the "true circulating" half-dollar. Up to the middle 1960's half-dollars were a part of everyday change. They seemed to be in abundance and there was nothing quite like the "ring of silver" when a half would strike a metal surface. At the family Saturday night card game, the throwing in of a half-dollar into the pot sounded like music!

The fifty-cent piece was "big money" in my hometown of Fort Lauderdale. In 1960 you could get a burger and a coke at your local A&W drive in for under fifty cents. If you were a **big spender** you would flip the carhop the big coin with the magnanimous expression to "keep the change" which was five to ten cents!

This all changed with the introduction of the Kennedy Half-Dollar. People began hoarding the coin as soon as it came out. The coin was collected by just about everyone, as there seemed to be a real connection between the fallen President and the coin. For many people holding on to the coin was way of keeping the connection alive. By the late sixties it was rare to receive a half-dollar in change and if it was a Kennedy it wouldn't remain in circulation long.

As such we have all sort of grown accustomed to doing without a "real circulating" half-dollar. The half was certainly a functional coin and I don't remember many people complaining about its size. Perhaps the U.S. Mint will perhaps look at a new half-dollar some day. It could be resized to be a little larger than a quarter and with Lady Liberty risen anew on the obverse. Wishful thinking on my part to say the least!

Did I ever tell you about the poker game in 1964 when I was dealt an unbelievable hand and I... but that's another story.

COIN OF THE MONTH

was the wartime nickel. Gary Galbo explained that nickel and copper were needed to manufacture munitions during the war so the nickel and copper content of the coins was lowered and silver was added. Carl Greenbaum asked why a coin of 75% copper and 25% nickel was called a nickel anyway. The wartime composition was 56% copper, 35% silver and 9% Manganese. Seven wartime nickels, including an MS67 NGC slab were won by Roger Leveque. Don Pickering described his wartime experiences in Denver where he got free hotel, meals and a movie because no one would take his \$2 bills. Coin of the month next month will be **Tokens**.

HOW I GOT STARTED

Ken Young

Coin collecting is really only an attempt to recover "The Treasure of The Sierra Madre".

In 1943, with the shortage of copper being serious, the call went out for the homefront to turn in any hoard of copper. My parents, wishing to do their part, took down from the bedroom dresser a large cast iron bank. I still have the bank, the lock opens with a button hook. But not the twenty plus dollars of Indian cents that were inside. The Indians had been saved from change, for about a 20 year period, through the late 1920's and 30's, and never checked for dates. My parents never collected anything. The pennies rolled up, we went the the Keene National Bank to turn them in. As a third grader, I had regrets about the idea. Those pennies looked so old and mysterious. I knew some of those coins were saved in a rural Kansas setting, in the twenties, while both my parents were teachers in a dirt main street small town farming area. DAMN!

To recover a lost enigma many years later, led to being a coin collector, with various trial and error approaches, and some research. Yes, I've since owned a complete set at one time or another, all well worn. And yes, I'm still galled some when I think what might have been in that bank. Thomas Wolfe wrote, "You can't go home again." I've tried.

SHOW CALENDAR

7-10 Jan - FUN Orlando
10 Jan - MeNA, Portland, ME
17 Jan - THIRD SUNDAY
HOLIDAY INN
24 Jan - Auburn
29-31 Jan - Rochester, NH
21 Feb - THIRD SUNDAY
HOLIDAY INN
26-28 Feb - Bay State Boston
**7 MAR - WILLAMANTIC,
CT**

DUES...

... are due in January. If your label has the number 98 or less, then you owe for the coming year. **FOUR DOLLARS** (two for juniors) is all it takes to get the greatest benefits around. Banquet, Pizza Party, and the best numismatic program around is what 1/3 of a dollar each month buys you! The club will gratefully accept any donations you may care to give.

More Gold!

By Carl Greenbaum

I wanted more gold! Nothing sinister about this; I just decided that I wanted to own some more gold. You know, the stock market is perilously overvalued, the Y2K "Millennium Bug" may bring the computer-based society to its knees and besides, I like the way gold looks. There is at least one good reason in there.

I don't expect the price of gold to skyrocket as it grovels around below \$290 an ounce. Since it costs most mines over \$250 an ounce to get it out of the ground, it is unlikely to go much lower either. I suppose a lot of countries could sell off their gold reserves but I still like the way it looks!

So how to buy more gold? I wasn't interested in mindlessly buying bullion coins. I wanted to collect something so I decided on a gold type set. Since gold grading is different and there are counterfeits out there, I decided to collect certified gold.

But I am also somewhat impatient and I didn't want to wait three or four months to buy each coin with the \$250-\$300 per month budget I tentatively established for this project. Consequently, I decided to collect post-1840 types in certified grades ranging from XF to MS-60, depending on the type.

Like most coin collecting projects, the research is enjoyable and educational. I used Bowers big red book on U.S. Gold Coins as well as the Eliasberg Gold Collection auction catalog for picture of some of the finest known pieces.

If you haven't looked lately, there are a lot of gold coin types out there. This was going to take longer and be more fun than I originally anticipated. Here is the want list I created with value estimates from a recent price guide:

DENOM	TYPE	YEAR	TARGET GRADE	VALUE
G\$1	Liberty Type I	1849-1854	MS-60	\$ 275
G\$1	Liberty Type II	1854-1856	XF-40	\$ 300
G\$1	Liberty Type III	1856-1889	MS-60	\$ 300
\$2.50	Classic Head	1834-1839	XF-40	\$ 300
\$2.50	Liberty	1840-1907	MS-60	\$ 275
\$2.50	Indian	1908-1929	MS-60	\$ 250
\$3.00	Liberty	1854-1889	XF-40	\$ 650
\$5.00	Coronet NM	1839-1866	AU-50	\$ 235
\$5.00	Liberty	1866-1908	MS-60	\$ 235
\$5.00	Indian	1908-1929	MS-60	\$ 300
\$10.00	Liberty NM	1839-1866	XF-40	\$ 460
\$10.00	Liberty	1866-1907	XF-45	\$ 250
\$10.00	Indian NM	1907-1908	AU-50	\$ 500
\$10.00	Indian	1908-1933	MS-60	\$ 380
\$20.00	Liberty NM T I	1849-1866	XF-40	\$ 600
\$20.00	Liberty T II	1866-1876	XF-40	\$ 500
\$20.00	Liberty T III	1877-1907	MS-60	\$ 550
\$20.00	St. Gaudens NM	1907-1908	MS-60	\$ 550
\$20.00	St. Gaudens	1908-1932	MS-60	\$ 550

Wow, that is 19 coins! There are, of course, lots of opinions regarding what constitutes a type set. In addition to leaving out the Pre-1840 issues, I also did not list the \$4 Stellas. If you wanted a smaller collection you could reduce the five \$20 double eagles to the two basic Liberty and St. Gaudens types. You might also skip the "No Motto" versions of the \$10 gold pieces, or at least leave them to the end. Substituting AU-50 grades for some MS types saves you \$50-\$60 on double eagles but up to \$120 or more on some of the smaller coins. Still, based on my budget, I could buy one coin per month for nearly a full year, then one coin every two months for another year and a half, a two and a half year project. Oh well, that takes me beyond January 1, 2000 but I still like the way gold looks.



.....a Point of
View.....

from.....

Small Cents II



Season's

greetings and Happy New Year to everyone. As I write this, 1998 is down to it's last few hours. It's early evening on December 31st and it looks like I'll be toasting the new year in the privacy of my own living room with the company of my most valuable coin of all, my wife Karen (Coyne) Galbo. That's right, in case you weren't already aware of it, my wife's Maiden name is Coyne. How's that for coincidence. In fact for Christmas eve I had the whole collection of Coynes here in my home at one time, talk about a one of a kind type collection. Well enough of that, that's a story for another time.

1998 has been a great year for coins and numismatics. The Nashua club has enjoyed continued growth with the addition of many new faces and the future of the club looks bright. We have our own resident numismatic author, with his monthly column in "Coins" magazine who has just finished his first year of articles on the hobby. We helped sponsor the NENA convention in Merrimack which was a rousing success. We are ably represented in both NENA and the ANA by Bob Fritsch, who continues to keep us abreast of the comings and goings in these great Numismatic Associations, not to mention his participation in the committee to select

the New Hampshire quarter design for the year 2000.

The hobby itself is at its healthiest in many years and promises to get even better with the exciting changes in coinage in store for us with the Commemorative State Quarter program and the imminent release of a new circulating dollar coin. These are indeed exciting times for coin enthusiasts. I believe the next couple years will bring a major influx of new collectors into the hobby.

From a personal standpoint, it has been a great year for Small Cents II, too! The increased activity on the internet has been a boon for the business and the hobby and our bi-monthly Auctions continue to increase in popularity. I expect to remain in business safely for the foreseeable future, thanks in no small part to many of my friends and fellow club members for their continued loyalty and patronage, I hope our association has been as beneficial to you as it has been for me, and I thank you all sincerely. I'd like to take this opportunity to restate my pledge to be as helpful as possible to the Nashua Coin club and it's members and keep in mind I am always available to help with your numismatic needs.

This is also an exciting time of year for coin dealers every where as the annual F.U.N convention (Florida United Numismatists) takes place in Orlando, Florida each January and kicks off the year Numismatically for us all. I've got my reservations for January 6th to 10th and am awaiting anxiously. I hope to bring back many treasure to share with you all.

Also, our next Auction is set for January 23rd and it looks to be an exciting catalog. I'll see you all at the next meeting fresh from F.U.N and with news of the show and the upcoming Small Cents II Auction.

Gary

Here is a page of logos that we used over the past months, plus some that weren't used. We will vote for our favorite in January, which will become the Official Logo of the newsletter.

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REMEMBER WHEN...? by Ken Young

The time periods grow fuzzy, But do you remember when:

- Jim (in Derry) drove a Butterfield stage route every day, picking up silver from a dozen dealers (including Tony), and delivering it to Sam Sloat, in Conn. With six shooter on the car seat?
- Or, A ticker type stock machine ran 8 hours each day in Tony's, spewing out yards of yellow paper as major dealers tried to create a market for proof sets; first the big buy ads, increase the buy price, and then dump the inventory on johnny come later?
- Or, the days when bill wells killed the club auction bit by putting in hords of BU late date quarters, then putting in a reserve bid well over the market price?
- Or, Nashua Coin Club at one time met at the old red brick YMCA on Temple St back in the days of Jim Stiff. Then for a brief period at the yellow wood building just down the street, apparently the YWCA?
- Or, Local dealer John Bartell treating the club members with contempt when running the auctions at the old YWCA? Flying eagle cents in Fine went off at 5 bucks each. I remember selling a few. Bartell ran a tight auction, but then some of the bidders were from the Lowell, MA club.

1998 OFFICERS

President - Alan Brouillard

VP1 - Gary Galbo

VP2 - Carl Greenbaum

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Director - Don Pickering

Librarian - Roger Levesque

Editor - Bob Fritsch

This Newsletter is published monthly by the Nashua (NH) Coin Club. Entire contents are copyright © 1998 by the Nashua Coin Club. Questions, comments, and articles may be sent to PO Box 3003; Nashua, NH 03061-3003 or to rfritsch@concentric.net on email. Deadline is the last Friday of the month.

Phone queries may be made to 881-9211. The Club meets on the second Monday of every month in the Chandler Memorial Library, 257 Main Street, Nashua.

NEXT MEETING 11 JANUARY AT THE LIBRARY

A reminder that elections will be held in January. A club is only as good as the people who step forward to run it. Most of our officers have been there for several years. Raise your hand when nominations are opened and help make our club the best one in the country.

N.C.C

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